

Hafa Adai!

'Last 3 months have been the most challenging for Guam' **PAGE 2**
Not one of 12,919 votes were rejected. **PAGE 3**

75¢

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Babauta is new Precinct 1 rep

» **Babauta says he is ready to serve**

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER



Babauta

Ex-Department of Public Safety official Franklin Reyes Babauta was appointed yesterday to represent Election District 1 in the CNMI House of Representatives.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres made the appointment after a vacancy when Edwin K. House Speaker Blas Jonathan

T. Attao (R-Saipan) declared a vacancy when Edwin K. Propst resigned as Precinct 1

representative last Oct. 1.

"I appreciate your willingness to serve," said Torres. See **BABAUTA on Page 4**

Arago OK'd to extend validity of PH e-passports

» **Will begin extension processing Nov. 16**

The Office of Philippine Honorary Consul to the CNMI Glicerio "Eli" Arago has been authorized to extend the validity of expiring Philippine e-passports

for one year.

The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs authorized Arago to make the extension for a limited period as the Agana Philippine

See **ARAGO on Page 4**



Arago

US hits record COVID-19 hospitalizations amid virus surge

By **MIKE STOBBE**
AP MEDICAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. hit a record number of coronavirus hospitalizations Tuesday and surpassed 1 mil-

See **US on Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Nov. 11, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	5,473	282	5,755
Recovered	3,654	13	3,667
Active	1,715	282	1,997
Deaths	91	0	91
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			74,067

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	100	0	100
Traced via Travel Screening	74	0	74
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			22,633*
Days since last community transmission			86

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

'We got your back'

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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REPORTER

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic when mass gatherings are discouraged, the Veterans Day commemoration at the America Memorial Park still pushed through yesterday but with social distancing protocols that limited the number of seats at the event.

See **WE GOT on Page 4**

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang lead other officials in presenting a wreath at the Veterans Day ceremony yesterday at the American Memorial Park.

NEIL FAMA



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Triple J Enterprises will be expanding to Tinian, on top of other expansion plans on Saipan.

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NATION

Joe Biden shrugs off President Donald Trump's refusal to accept the election results.

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ENVIRONMENT

Students and teachers from five school get immersed in environmental conservation efforts.

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Local

GUAM'S COVID-19 BATTLE

'Last 3 months have been the most challenging'

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

With the continuing surge of COVID-19 cases in Guam, the territory's government officials and health care workers have been on a heightened mode of

alert ever since the declaration of public health emergency in Guam last March and that posture hasn't changed.

In the virtual "Conversation with U.S. Surgeon General Jerome M. Adams MD on COVID19" last week,

Guam Public Health director Arthur San Agustin said that the months of August, September, and October have been the most challenging period among Guamanians. As of Thursday last week, a total of 4,903 people have tested

positive for the virus. That's 7% of the 65,059 people who have already been tested (44% of the Guam community). The positive case count in March was 77 but that went up to 92 in June, then 95 in July. In August, the positive case count exponentially increased to 1,085, which is approximately a 1,000% increase and spiked further in September to 1,108 and literally doubled in October to 2,209.

"We have seen surges in hospitals. ... We have created a rapid engagement team to respond and identify why we have been getting 117 positive cases in a span of three days and, more importantly, provide intervention in containing and control the spread of the virus," he said.

To tamp down the prevent spread, San Agustin said that Public Health and its many partners—both traditional and non-traditional—are working together. "There are many opinions and approaches. ... The people working in the response is fueled by dedication, commitment, and honor to serve our community in this great time of need against this invisible enemy," he said. "COVID-19 has brought various disciplines to the forefront because of its impact on the social and mental health and economic devastation. ... Our health care system, emotional and mental wellbeing, and our

economic security are being challenged."

U.S. Surgeon General Jerome M. Adams said that the number of people with COVID-19 in Guam is high and the case is the same in the U.S. mainland. "We are feeling the pain too. ... COVID-19 cases are rising in other parts of the United States and Europe. ... The increase in positive cases is an overall indicator of community spread," he said. "... A great concern is that hospitals in Guam are nearing its capacity. ... Last statistic I heard is that 30% of the island is currently unemployed because of the virus. Many of you are experiencing pandemic fatigue and it's a real thing, including isolation, loss of celebration, and comforts. ... That fatigue also increases our chances of contracting and spreading the virus, which prolongs our pain and increases the length of time that we need to shut down."

Despite these, Adams said this is a time to focus on what works. "... Guam is clearly in the COVID-19 crosshairs now. Let me say with confidence that with your effort to combat this virus before, I am certain that you can regain control of this virus once again. We talked about you in the [U.S.] mainland as really the exemplars for how to control this virus," he said. "You are who we brag about on the coronavirus task force

and I know you can do this yet again. You just need the confidence and the will to do it. A strong community is a tremendous asset."

According to Adams, the U.S. is likely to have one or more vaccines for COVID-19 before the end of this year. "These are proven safe and effective... and ready for distribution first to those most at risk. Over the coming months, our aim is to vaccinate millions of Americans, extending protection from COVID-19 across the continent and the Pacific. ... We will need your help to [address] any concern Guamanians and other folks on island has about vaccine safety and efficacy to ensure equitable and easy access when the time comes," he said. "It will be a real shame and a tragedy if we had a cure for this virus with a safe and effective vaccine but we weren't able to stop it in Guam because we weren't able to get people to accept this vaccine."

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero said the past eight months had them focused on battling the largest crisis in the world. "That's why we have been engaged in the largest public health response in our history. ... This virus does not care about our age, race, or gender and has brought even the strongest among us to their knees. ... I know many of us are tired and we long for our life before COVID-19 but that mindset will be our downfall," she said. "I know it's hard to feel that we have made progress at all but in April just seven months ago, the Federal Emergency Management Agency predicted that Guam could see as many as 26,000 cases but our actual number is 4,500. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's same model predicted that COVID-19 hospitalization would peak at 3,000 in June; our actual number in October is less than a hundred."

Leon Guerrero said her administration's sole mission is to save as many lives as possible and prevent a time when the number of people infected will grow so large so quickly. "Surviving this virus does not mean going back to business as usual. It means adopting best practices to protect ourselves and our community for the foreseeable future. This is difficult and it will be a test unlike any that we have seen before but I know our people and I know that we will get through this," she said.

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Not one of 12,919 votes cast were rejected

» **604 of 1,668 absentee ballots sent not received**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission said that 12,919 votes, excluding the remaining absentee ballots, was the total number of votes cast during the Nov. 3 general elections and that all votes were counted.

CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez also told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they sent out 1,668 absentee ballots and that they received 1,064.

Villagomez said they have not received 604 absentee ballots.

The ballots that are not received are 86 for Precinct 1; 23 for Precinct 2; 60 for Precinct 3; 39 for Precinct 4; 56 for Precinct 5; 125 for Precinct 6 (Tinian); and 215 for Precinct 7 (Rota).

Villagomez said the ballots that were rejected by the tabulating machines were given to the CEC commissioners for examination.

She said if the ballots were torn, they replaced it via reconstruction, where one person would be writing down the reconstructed votes, while another would read it.

"There's nothing being rejected. They're all corrected," the executive director said, adding that only a few ballots were rejected by the machines and had to be manually inspected by the CE commissioners.

She said they will be tabulating the last batch of absentee ballots on Tuesday, Nov. 17, because under the new election law, they have to wait for 14 days from election day for the arrival of absentee ballots.

Villagomez said all the remaining absentee ballots that arrived after Nov. 3 will be picked up on Tuesday afternoon at the closing of the U.S. Postal Service office. She said the ballots have to be postmarked by Nov. 2 for those coming from the U.S. mainland.

Villagomez said they will still receive those that are not postmarked Nov. 2, but these won't be counted as they're already beyond the deadline.

Villagomez said they are not expecting all 604 absentee ballots to make it to the deadline.

CEC commissioner Jesus I. Sablan earlier estimated that only 50 to 100 ballots may arrive by the Nov. 17 deadline.

The closest that is likely to change results is the battle for the last place in Precinct 3 between Rep. Ralph Yumul of the Republican Party and Corina Lorraine Magofna of the Democratic Party. Yumul has

1,230 votes so far, while Magofna has 1,195—a margin of just 35 votes.

It would still be difficult for

Magofna to overcome Yumul as 60 is the total remaining absentee ballots for Precinct 3.

See **NOT ONE** on Next Page



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<p>2014 FIAT 500C CONVERTIBLE 34,718 MILES • STK: 14BC73400 SALE PRICE \$7,995 KBB: \$7,365</p>	<p>2017 HYUNDAI ACCENT GLS 39,201 MILES • STK: 7R220 SALE PRICE \$11,995 KBB: \$12,682</p>	<p>2016 TOYOTA PRIUS C 31,932 MILES • STK: 20D134-A SOLD KBB: \$16,685</p>
<p>2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4 14,339 MILES • STK: 18BC54885 SALE PRICE \$9,995 KBB: \$9,196</p>	<p>2016 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS 29,072 MILES • STK: 16BC051 SALE PRICE \$11,995 KBB: \$12,943</p>	<p>2015 MAZDA MAZDA3 HATCHBACK 56,995 MILES • STK: 5R219 SOLD KBB: \$15,460</p>
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<p>2018 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4 13,073 MILES • STK: 18BC54880 SALE PRICE \$9,995 KBB: \$9,318</p>	<p>2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER HATCHBACK 39,217 MILES • STK: 20H068-A SALE PRICE \$14,995 KBB: \$15,830</p>	<p>2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT 16,856 MILES • STK: 18BC54859 SALE PRICE \$15,995 KBB: \$16,796</p>
<p>2015 NISSAN ROUGE SELECT 20,384 MILES • STK: 15BC55550 SOLD SALE PRICE \$10,995 KBB: \$10,151</p>	<p>2018 KIA FORTE HATCHBACK LX 9,422 MILES • STK: 18HS918 SALE PRICE \$14,995 KBB: \$18,614</p>	<p>2018 HYUNDAI TUCSON 19,025 MILES • STK: 18BC56820 SOLD SALE PRICE \$17,995 KBB: \$19,568</p>

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Payment dispute delays resumption of construction work at casino

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Resumption of construction work at the Imperial Pacific Resort in Gara-

pan remains uncertain due to a payment dispute between Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and its contractor, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

IPI chief executive officer Donald Browne said their construction team is not sure when they will resume work due to the payment dispute. Browne said there is apparently

still a payment dispute with their consultant engineers that is causing additional delays in the submission of certified documents to the Department of Public Works.

When asked how much IPI owes the consultant engineers, Browne said it's unknown as it's disputed.

Browne said he wishes he has more information but that he's not involved with the day-to-day construction operations.

Last week Browne disclosed that IPI had already submitted the requested documents to DPW and that the agency is in the process of reviewing it. He said construction will begin once DPW approves the documents. Browne earlier said they expect a quick resolution to the issue. Browne said that, as they can't afford

to lose construction days for clerical issues, they are working diligently to resolve with the engineers and resume construction for the Imperial Pacific Resort.

IPI received the stop-work order from DPW last Oct. 27.

DPW's Building Safety Code Division ordered IPI to stop work immediately until it complies with the requirement to submit shop drawings and revised plans and have them approved by DPW's Building Safety officer. DPW also suspended all welding work.

DPW said that failure to comply may result in fees, civil penalties or fines.

DPW said its order will remain in effect until the Building Safety Division rescinds it.

US

From Page 1

lion new confirmed cases in just the first 10 days of November amid a nationwide surge of infections that shows no signs of slowing.

The new wave appears bigger and more widespread than the surges that happened in the spring and summer—and threatens to be worse. But experts say there are also reasons to think the nation is better able to deal with the virus this time around.

"We're definitely in a better place" when it comes to improved medical tools and knowledge, said William Hanage, a Harvard University infectious-disease researcher.

Newly confirmed infections in the U.S. were running at all-time highs of well over 100,000 per day, pushing

the total to more than 10 million and eclipsing 1 million since Halloween. There are now 61,964 people hospitalized, according to the COVID Tracking Project.

Several states posted records Tuesday, including over 12,600 new cases in Illinois, 10,800 in Texas and 7,000 in Wisconsin.

Deaths—a lagging indicator, since it takes time for people to get sick and die—are climbing again, reaching an average of more than 930 a day.

Hospitals are getting slammed. And unlike the earlier outbreaks, this one is not confined to a region or two.

"The virus is spreading in a largely uncontrolled fashion across the vast majority of the country," said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious-disease expert at Vanderbilt University.

Governors made increasingly desperate pleas for people to take the

fight against the virus more seriously.

In an unusual prime-time speech hours after Wisconsin set new records for infections and deaths, Democratic Gov. Tony Evers announced that he was advising people to stay in their houses and businesses to allow people to work remotely, require masks and limit the number of people in stores and offices.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, ordered bars and restaurants to close at 10 p.m., and Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican, said she will require masks at indoor gatherings of 25 or more people, inching toward more stringent measures after months of holding out.

While deaths are still well below the U.S. peak of about 2,200 per day back in April, some researchers estimate the nation's overall toll will hit about 400,000 by Feb. 1, up from about 240,000 now.

WE GOT

From Page 1

The Saipan event started out with a motorcade from Marpi to different points of Saipan and ended up at the American Memorial Park to mark the traditional moment when the 11th day of the 11th month on the 11th hour of the year is celebrated as Veterans Day.

A B-1 Lancer aircraft and two F-22 Raptors, all from the Anderson Air Force Base in Guam, later flew in formation over Saipan as part of the ceremony. According to a statement from the AAFB, the B-1 Lancer is based out of the 9th Bomb Squadron at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, and the F-22 Raptors are based out of the 94th Fighter Squadron at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. Besides Saipan, the fighters also flew over Palau and Guam.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who served in the U.S. military for over 20 years and is a Vietnam War veteran,

was the keynote speaker this year.

In his speech, Apatang said that "the beginning of our democratic society is rooted in altruism," and that core value "has brought many military sons and daughters back to safety no matter where they were at the moment." He credits his presence at yesterday's events to each of the soldiers in his division who held that "core value firmly to heart, which was to survive the harsh environment in Vietnam and the hissing bullets rocketing in their direction." Apatang recalled that during his time in Vietnam, from the Mekong Delta to the demilitarized zone advancing the nation's mission to protect its interest in South Vietnam and to resist the spread of communism into the rest of Asia, he put himself in front of his soldiers and, in return, they did the same for him.

"Honoring our nation's approximately 20 million veterans on a designated federal holiday is fittingly patriotic. More than 90 years of tradition of commemorating Veterans

Day is in our nation's proclamation to perpetuate peace through goodwill and mutual understanding between nations," said Apatang.

He said his life before and after Vietnam has not been easy, and his experiences still linger in his head, which is why he holds this day near and dear to his heart. "To all veterans, despite the challenges our nation is facing today, we assure you, we got your back," said Apatang.

Unlike previous years when people stood side by side in the crowd watching the ceremony, this year's version of Veterans Day was different. According to a staff handing out the programs, due to the COVID-19 social distancing guidance, they were only allowed to have 50 chairs at the event. This meant that all other guests had to bring their own chairs.

Veterans Day used to be called Armistice Day until it was renamed in 1954. It marks the formal end of World War 1 on Nov. 11, 1918 when the armistice with Germany went into effect.

ARAGO

From Page 1

Consulate General's mobile consular outreach is temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The Philippine Honorary Consulate Office-CNMI will begin accepting passport extension processing on Monday, Nov. 16. This will be conducted at the Philippine Honorary Consulate-CNMI Support Office at the Sun Palace Hotel in Oleai, Saipan.

Arago is urging all applicants with valid and unexpired Philippine passports—or those with at least a month before the expiration date—to avail of the passport extension opportunity. He will also assist other passport extension requests, depending on the applicant's needs.

Arago is advising applicants to give his office at least a week to process the passport extension requests.

In the same advisory from the Agaña Philippine Consulate-General, it said that applicants will still face the risk that they may be refused entry into a foreign country if they use these extended passports in passing border controls. This means that holders of manually extended passport validity may be refused admission by border control authorities when travelling to a foreign country or at international ports of entry.

Arago said holders of extended Philippine passports must understand that they can be refused entry to a foreign country.

To apply for the passport extension, applicants must fill out and sign the Request for Emergency Extension of Passport Validity that will be available at the support office. Once extended, the passport holder must renew the passport prior to the expiry date of the extension. There can be no re-extension.

At the same time, Arago will be informing the U.S. Customs and Border Protection that, due to the current coronavirus pandemic, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs through the consulate, will be conducting "manual extension of passports" that Philippine nationals will use when travelling/going home using the Guam route and or other Asian countries.

For applicants needing a two-year passport validity extension, for purposes of work permits such as CW-1 renewal, the request of extension will be submitted to and processed by the Agaña Philippine Consulate General via courier or postal service.

The Philippine Honorary Consulate Support Office-CNMI will be exercising strict social distancing procedures and public health protocols when processing for passport validity extension on Nov. 15 and onwards. (PR)

BABAUTA

From Page 1

ness to serve in this important role of providing representation for the people of Election District 1," the governor told Babauta in his appointment letter.

Babauta will serve the remaining term of Propst, which means until Jan. 11, 2021.

In a later interview, Babauta said he is happy with the appointment as he has been waiting for it because he is ready to serve the community. "We have to do what we have to do. And that's to serve the community again," he said.

Torres said his office received the communication from Attao last Oct. 26 that declared the vacancy caused by Propst's resignation.

Under Article II, Section 9 of the CNMI Constitution, when a vacancy arises and less than one-half of the term remains, "the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing the unsuccessful candidate for the office in the last election who received the largest number of votes and is willing to serve."

As less than one-half of the current legislative term remains, and Babauta is the unsuccessful candidate with the most number of votes, and has expressed a willingness to serve, Torres said he is appointing him with immediate effect as representative for Election District 1 House of Representatives of the 21st NMI Legislature. Precinct 1 covers San Vicente, Dandan, parts of Fina Sisú, Koblerville, San Antonio, As Lito, parts of As Perdido, Chalan Piao, Afetnas, and As Gonno.

Babauta, who said this opportunity gives him a chance to serve the community, was at the Veterans Day ceremony at the American Memorial Park when Attao saw him and handed him the appointment letter.

NOT ONE

From Page 3

The other closest contest is for the Tinian House seat between Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas of the Republican Party and Frederick Arend Dela Cruz of the Democratic Party. San Nicolas got 625 votes, while Dela Cruz

Babauta said he's been waiting for this appointment and that finally he got it yesterday, Veterans Day. "We are grateful on Veterans Day as this is the day we honor our veterans. They are the ones who really gave us our freedom," he said.

Babauta, who ran as an independent candidate, landed in seventh place in the 2018 election for Precinct 1, where there were six House positions.

Babauta retired from DPS in August 2006, with the rank of deputy commissioner for administration.

He retired from the U.S. Army in 2015 with a rank of lieutenant colonel. His last tour of duty was with the security forces advisory team in Afghanistan. Babauta was one of the lieutenant colonels there in "Operation Enduring Freedom" in southern Afghanistan.

He had a couple of experiences commanding troops in both wartime and in peacetime missions.

He commanded the Echo Company here at the Army Reserve when they went to Iraq in 2005 and 2006.

In 2007, Babauta moved to Guam and joined the Guam Army National Guard. He was then deployed to Afghanistan. Babauta commanded the battalion embedded training team in the eastern part Afghanistan.

Babauta then went back to Guam where he then commanded the Guam Army National Guard Element for almost three years.

Babauta's wife, Celina, just won a House Precinct 1 position at the Nov. 3 general elections. She was the second top vote-getter behind Propst, based on the Commonwealth Election Commission's unofficial tabulation results.

Last Thursday, new House minority leader Rep. Christina Sablan (D-Saipan) and the four other minority bloc members urged Torres to follow the law by appointing Babauta immediately to replace Propst.

received 579—a margin of 46.

CEC reminded those who failed to vote in two consecutive elections that they need to register again.

CEC started the registration again last Thursday, Nov. 5.

As of Oct. 7, there was a total of 18,519 registered voters in the CNMI. A total of 8,369 cast early votes in the Commonwealth.



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UOG names 6 Distinguished Alumni Award winners

The University of Guam named the winners of its prestigious Distinguished Alumni Awards during its virtual All-Class Alumni Reunion hosted last Nov. 5, 2020.

More than 200 people attended the virtual event, including Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, Delegate Michael San Nicolas, and Sen. Amanda Shelton. JEJ Vinson, a finalist on NBC's "The Voice" provided a performance for the event.

"We are so proud of the accomplishments of our Distinguished Alumni winners, and

we are excited that members of the Triton family from different parts of the globe were a part of the celebration," said Norman Analista, director of development, alumni affairs, and foundation relations.

Also announced at the event were the results for the Last Mile Scholarship fundraiser. The fundraiser was launched in October to coincide with the reunion. The scholarship is a competitive scholarship awarded to students who are within 30 credits of completing their first bachelor's de-

gree and who are in financial need. More than \$14,000 were raised through the support of corporate donors and alumni. The 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award winners are:

From the College of Natural and Applied Sciences:

Masatomo Thomas Nadeau

Chief Environmental Public Health Officer
Department of Public Health and Social Services
M.S., Environmental Science, 2004

From the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences:

Sarah Thomas Nededog

CEO, People Pacifico
Chairwoman, Democratic Party of Guam



B.A., Psychology and Sociology, 1981

From the School of Business and Public Administration:

Christine Baletto

Chief Financial Officer, Docomo Pacific
Chairwoman, Guam Chamber of Commerce
MBA, 2003



From the School of Education:

Eloise R. Sanchez

School Program Consultant
Guam Department of Education
M.Ed., Curriculum and Instruction, 1984



From the School of Health:

Teofila Sholing Perez Cruz, Ph.D., RN

Post-Doctoral Researcher
Research Corporation of the University of Guam
A.S., Nursing, 1970



Military Award:

Brig. Gen. Tracy L. Smith

Deputy Surgeon General for Mobilization, Manpower and Reserve Affairs
Office of the Army Surgeon General
BBA, Management, 1987



Details for next year's award cycle will be announced in July. (PR)

Writers: Take a four-day retreat with UOG Press

The University of Guam Press is now accepting applications for the Mañe'lon i Mantitige' Writing Retreat, scheduled for Feb. 5 - 8. Five applicants will be selected to attend an intensive four-day retreat based on the publishing potential of their writing, their commitment to their writing project, and a clearly expressed desire to publish their work.

The Mañe'lon i Mantitige' Writing Retreat will take place in the quiet and beautiful village of Malesso' to provide writers time and space to write away from their busy lives in a setting that inspires both creativity and productivity. A rigorous writing schedule will be maintained to allow writers to work on their manuscripts during uninterrupted time blocks. There will also be short activities planned throughout the retreat to create a sense of community among the writers and provide opportunities to share their writing and have meaningful discussions about their writing processes.



A group of writers meets for a "Healing Through Writing" craft workshop hosted by the University of Guam Press last March 13, 2020.

Writers interested in applying for the retreat must submit a completed application form and an early draft of a book manuscript they are working on in any genre of literature (fiction, creative non-fiction, memoir, poetry, short story collection, young adult, etc.) by Dec. 15. All prose submissions must be 25 single-spaced pages. Poetry submissions must be 25 pages

without spacing requirements.

The application form and requirements can be found at: <https://www.uog.edu/uog-press/manelon-i-mantitige-writers-fellowship>.

This writing retreat is part of UOG Press's Mañe'lon i Mantitige' Writers Fellowship project, which launched earlier this year with support from the Guam Economic Development Authority. The fellowship

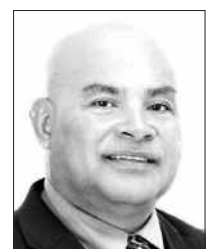
aims to foster writers at various stages of the writing process by providing peer-review writing workshops, published author presentations, editing and revision courses, and an intensive writing and revision retreat.

For more information, contact Mañe'lon i Mantitige' Fellowship project manager Akina Chargualaf at (671) 735-2154 or achargualaf@triton.uog.edu. (PR)

FSM president Panuelo formally congratulates Biden and Harris

PALIKIR, Pohnpei— Federated States of Micronesia president David W. Panuelo sent last Tuesday the nation's formal congratulations to President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Vice President-elect Kamala D. Harris, expressing FSM's recognition of Biden as the winner of the recent U.S. presidential election.

"As an alumnus of Eastern Oregon University, I am well familiar with the United States, and in my capacity as the 9th president of the Federated States of Micronesia, I am at once pleased and honored to congratulate you both on your recent election victory," Panuelo wrote.



Panuelo

Panuelo also noted FSM's appreciation for the past four years of strengthening the FSM-U.S. partnership, "which is based on shared values of democratic principles, the rule of law, and peace, unity, and liberty. "It is my hope and intention that, under your administration, we will continue to move rapidly on issues of mutual import to our two nations, including the completion of the negotiations on the expiring economic provisions of our Compact of Free Association. ...The Federated States of Micronesia has heard the calls from the United States of America to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region, and Mi-

cronesians are committed to doing their part in maintaining regional and international security," he wrote.

Panuelo expressed FSM's keen hope for the United States to return to championing the global effort in tackling the climate change threat, which he said remains the nation's primary long-term security issue. "Mr. President-elect and Madam Vice President-elect, with respect, I have seen you pronounce that on your first day in office that the United States of America will rejoin the Paris Agreement, and it is my sincere and heartfelt hope that this is precisely what will occur," Panuelo's letter stated.

He expressed faith in the United States' ability to overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. "This year of 2020 has brought significant challenges, from the COVID-19 pandemic and the loss of always-precious and invaluable human lives, to economic hardships that are increasingly unequal in the categories of people most affected. Overcoming these challenges may at first appear to be Sisyphean in nature, but I want you to know that I, and the people of the Federated States of Micronesia, have faith in the United States of America, and the American people, in overcoming them, and becoming stronger as a result." (PR)



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Customs seized more marijuana than meth in FY 2020

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Customs seized more marijuana than crystal meth at the CNMI ports of entry in fiscal year 2020.

According to Customs' fiscal year 2020 annual report provided to *Saipan Tribune* Friday, they seized 1,492 grams of marijuana and 1,072 grams of crystal meth last fiscal year. Customs also confiscated 23 grams of THC powder and 356 pieces of other

Club 200 will go virtual

The 32nd American Red Cross Club 200 fundraising event will be exclusively online this year due to COVID-19. This year's theme will be "Wild About the Red Cross" and include fantastic door prizes, auction items and a live streaming event on Dec. 19, 2020, a Saturday.

Support the Red Cross' humanitarian work by purchasing tickets. Tickets are only \$50 each and available online at www.redcross.org/club200. Every \$50 ticket purchase will have a chance to win door prizes. If buyers don't have a credit or debit card, contact the Red Cross office at 234-3459 for more information. (PR)

controlled substances.

On counterfeit items, the division intercepted 3,420 items of apparel/clothing, 230 pairs of footwear, and 151 pieces of purses, bags, wallets, and other items.

On undeclared or undervalued items, Customs intercepted 419 apparel/clothing, 85 electronics/accessories, 585 cosmetic items, 3,466 bottles of liquor, including beer and wine, 2,305 packs of

cigarettes, and 5,800 pieces of antibiotics and other pills.

That same fiscal year, Customs collected \$38,312,876 in revenue through excise (duty) tax, container tax, beautification tax, and others, including penalties, that were collected at the ports of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The amount collected on Saipan totaled \$37,809,886, while \$91,735 was collected on Tinian, and \$411,254 on Rota.

In fiscal year 2019, Customs collected \$46,802,410 on Saipan, \$85,983 on Tinian, and \$443,076 on Rota, for a total of \$47,331,470.

At a press briefing Friday at Customs' conference room, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig and Customs director Jose Mafnas Sr. disclosed that, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, most sources of illicit drugs, particularly crystal

meth, are the U.S. mainland and not China, and are smuggled into the CNMI through mails and packages at the U.S. Post Office.

Atalig, Mafnas, and Customs planner and public information officer Reina C. Camacho also discussed Customs' interception of over 300 grams of meth or "ice" and other illicit drugs at the post office in Chalan Kanoa in the past 45 days.

They said cocaine and LSD were the other illicit drugs that were smuggled via mail.

Mafnas said they have been intercepting illegal drugs, but just they did not call a media conference because the investigations were not done yet.

Camacho said they intercepted 700 grams or almost 2 lbs of crystal meth last January. "So at least every year, Customs has intercepted crys-

Bank of Guam calendar, year-in-review win awards

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam announced yesterday that its 2020 calendar "Finding Your Purpose" has been recognized with a Platinum Award, and its 2019 Year in Review has earned Gold from Marcom Awards. The bank also earned honorable mention for its 2019 spring EcoForum Sustainability Promotional Item (bento box) and its 2019 fall EcoForum Sustainability Promotional Item (rocket reusable notebook).

Marcom Awards honors excellence in marketing and communication while recognizing the creativity and work and generosity of industry professionals. Established in 2004, Marcom is administered by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, and has evolved

into one of the largest most-respected creative competitions in the world, garnering 6,000 print and digital entries from dozens of countries.

"This is the second year that our Bank of Guam calendar has earned Platinum, and we are once again very humbled and greatly pleased that our local creative talent produces original, purposeful pieces that successfully compete with the best of international media," said Joaquin P.L.G. Cook, Bank of Guam president and chief executive officer. "The 2020 calendar has as its foundation Bank of Guam's purpose of service and doing good. To our customers and our community who have used our Calendar, it has been our privilege to be with you during this 2020 journey." (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marcom Awards has presented Bank of Guam's 2019 Year in Review with a Gold Award.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marcom Awards has presented Bank of Guam's 2020 calendar "Finding Your Purpose" with a Platinum Award.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-21-003

A&E DESIGN SERVICES FOR WEST SAN JOSE HOMESTEAD (TINIAN) WATERLINE PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for A&E Design Services for West San Jose Homestead (Tinian) Waterline Project.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in separate sealed envelopes marked "CUC-RFP-21-003, A&E Design Services for West San Jose Homestead (Tinian) Waterline Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than November 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 9, 2020** to **Manny B. Sablan**, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email address larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior, via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEMS INC. NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

SUBMISSION DATE: NOV. 20, 2020
TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL"

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. is a non-profit organization that protects the civil, legal, and human interests of people with disabilities. NMPASI is seeking an office space to lease for 2 years with option to renew. The space must be 2,000 - 3,000 sq. ft. all inquiries must be directed to our Executive Director, James M. Rayphand.

Please submit proposal no later than the above date and time. NMPASI is located in Gualo Rai, Middle Road. Tel. Nos. 235-7273/74, Fax. 235-7275, Website: www.nmpasi.org.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The ongoing Swedish experiment

Politicians and health officials alike have been propping up Sweden as a case study for months now in the ongoing battle against COVID-19.

Sweden took some precautions but didn't institute nationwide lockdown policies in order to protect its economy and schools from the worst ravages of the virus, to mixed results. In the spring, the country's death rate per million citizens spiked to rival the United States' and drew sharp criticism from around the world, with many officials calling Sweden a warning against lax virus policies.

Now, Europe and parts of the U.S. are experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases. Sweden's case load has sharply spiked as well, but hospitalizations and deaths remain low, aside from a slight bump at the end of October that pushed the country of 10 million past the 6,000 deaths threshold. (Hospitalizations and deaths are lagging indicators and could appear in the next week or two.) The country has instituted new mild isolation recommendations, including working from home and capping some indoor gatherings.

It's time to reevaluate Sweden's COVID-19 strategy.

The National Center for Biotechnology Innovation at the end of August published a study that called Sweden's approach "evidence-based," stating that the "health care system in the country has never been overwhelmed and thus it is possible to conclude that 'flattening the curve' has been successful."

It goes on to point out that while Sweden experienced a horrifically higher death rate among its elderly population compared to other Nordic countries, the severity of lockdowns does not directly correlate with deaths. Other factors like age and obesity are also relevant.

It's also worth noting that Swedes do not wear masks in rates comparable to other European countries.

While many in the media and public health expressed anger with Sweden for apparently sacrificing the elderly population to preserve the economy, Sweden's state epidemiologist Anders Tegnell denies that any such exchange was premeditated and shifted blame to nursing homes not following state directives.

The grisly reality of Sweden's death count aligns with much of the U.S. in that a majority of deaths—more than 70%—were concentrated in nursing facilities or in homes with in-home services for senior citizens.

Currently, researchers believe that the virus is spreading primarily through the 20-29-year-old population, so even though infection rates are returning to levels comparable with the spring, deaths are not shooting up proportionally.

As with all COVID-19 data, researchers are working with an incomplete picture. Not everyone who catches the virus is tested, not everyone who dies registers as a COVID-19 death. Some who tested positive and die have comorbidities that make it difficult to say whether the virus was primarily responsible for their deaths.

Comparing countries' responses and data is important in identifying best practices in handling the virus. The point isn't to harangue countries for their mistakes, but rather to

See SWEDISH on Next Page



Bipolar America

If Joe Biden survives recounts and several lawsuits filed by the Trump campaign into what Donald Trump says has been widespread vote-counting fraud (we await proof), do not expect him to be hounded over his and Hunter Biden's business ties to China and Ukraine as President Trump has been over "Russian collusion" charges and numerous other attempts by Democrats, the left and the media to undermine his administration.

In an address to the nation on Saturday, President-elect Biden claimed he has been given a "mandate for action on COVID, the economy, climate change (and) systemic racism." He called for healing and unity.

Biden reportedly plans to issue a slew of executive orders, reversing those by President Trump. It is his right to do so, but how does that promote healing and unity? For Democrats, healing and unity often means bowing to their policy wishes. It never seems to work in reverse.

Does Biden have a mandate on COVID? Would Americans, including businesses owners, accept a national lockdown that could cripple the economy? In a Hill-HarrisX survey conducted in July, 53% of registered voters approved of President Trump's job on economy, which, despite COVID, is recovering, "albeit unevenly." A September Gallup Poll found that 56% of registered voters believed they were better off under Trump than under the Obama-Biden administration.

What about open borders and lifting the ban on immigrants from nations that have experienced and, in some cases, promoted terrorism? Does Biden have a mandate for that? Will he be anti-Israel, as some believe Barack Obama was? Will Biden undermine peace agreements brokered by Trump between Israel and three Arab/Muslim states? Was Trump's impeachment by Nancy Pelosi's House a contribution to healing and unity?

The Biden economic plan includes tax increases and more spending. Biden also said, "the purpose of our politics isn't total, unrelenting, unending warfare." You wouldn't know it from the way Democrats behave, starting with their slander of Robert Bork during his hearing to become a justice of the Supreme Court—ditto Brett Kavanaugh—through the presidential election of 2000, which many Democrats then and now claim illegitimately elected George W. Bush, to the 2016 election when they claimed Hillary Clinton should have won based on the popular vote and mounted a four-year political assault against the president.

Biden's bromides sound comforting, but Democrats do not

By **CAL THOMAS**

Tribune Content Agency

Readers may email Cal Thomas at
tcaeditors@tribpub.com.



practice what they preach.

"We may be opponents, but we are not enemies. We're Americans," he said. No credit to Abraham Lincoln. An earlier comment that we are not "red or blue states, but the United States" was taken from President Obama.

Speaking of Lincoln, who Democrats like to cite as a great Republican president, I am rereading Carl Sandburg's brilliant four-volume work on Lincoln called "The War Years." Sandburg quotes some of Lincoln's many critics, including Democrats and the press at a time when the nation was even more divided.

After the 1860 election and before he was sworn in, the owner and editor of the New York Herald, James Gordon Bennett, called on Lincoln not to assume office: "A grand opportunity now exists for Lincoln to avert impending ruin, and invest his name with an immortality far more enduring that would attach to it by his elevation to the Presidency."

Trump critics planned to impeach him before he was inaugurated and publicly said so.

Biden says he wants to bring us together? On which issues would he be willing to compromise and find common ground with Republicans? To win the approval of Democrats and their media acolytes, Republicans must lose elections and forfeit their principles.

The mystery is why so many Americans vote for Republicans in one election and Democrats the next. Too many it seems vote mainly on personality and superficialities, not substantive policies.

It was the media's job to dig under the superficial and reveal the true Joe Biden (and Kamala Harris, who could likely become president sooner than later). They failed, becoming an extension of the Democratic Party and anti-Trumpers. If Biden's policies fail don't expect Democrats to admit it; they will blame Republicans.

Meanwhile we are a bipolar nation, unlikely to unify.

A backlash of civility?

The days of wine and roses
seem a lifetime far away
While posturing and poses
are the order of the day

Good graces and decorum
don't define the way we act
Every evil has its forum
accusation equals fact

Restraint and apt humility
are valued here no more
Attacks and rank hostility
is that what we've in store?

Perhaps it's just an apogee
the end point of a swing
Its opposite we're soon to see
if physics does its thing

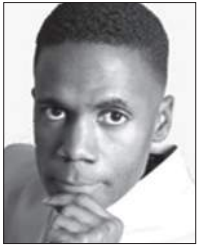
Civility by pendulum?
we must do more than hope
The change is what you must become
to move the swinging rope

"A divided electorate," "no dialogue between sides," calls for violence and talk of civil war—is this what society has become?

We've often read about all sorts of "backlash" when it comes to public sentiment or behavior on political and social issues. Typically, whenever a progressive change takes place for instance, (e.g. in the form of a downward change in status or wealth, real or perceived), those affected by this change will often "push back" in the opposite direction as a way of reestablishing the status quo.

Entropy theory aside for a moment, what if the situation we are experiencing now is not evidence of irreversible societal decay doomed to unchecked expansion? What if the behavior we are witnessing and experiencing is simply the apogee of a pendulum swing? What if the next phase is not expansion—with things get-

By **WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Saipan resident Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of over 400 "life rhymes" and over two dozen books including *Turn Your Passion into Profit* and *The Tao of Wow*. Learn more at www.liferhymes.com and www.waltgoodridge.com

ting worse—but, instead a swing in the opposite direction?

What if "old time" behaviors (like civil discourse, respect, empathy) are due for a resurgence? Wouldn't it be thrilling to experience a backlash of civility? What's needed, however, is not simply optimism, but action as Gandhi reportedly said: "Become the change you wish to see." Don't wait for the backlash, become the backlash in civility!

Why can't a generation that grew up online spot the misinformation in front of them?

By **SAM WINEBURG AND NADAV ZIV**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The 2020 election has once again demonstrated how easy it is to spread misinformation online. And universities across the U.S. are failing in teaching students how to identify it. Many colleges offer students guides to evaluate the trustworthiness of websites. But too many of them base their advice on a report from 1998. That's nine years before the first iPhone, and 18 years before Russian interference sparked an urgent discussion on how we interpret information online.

There's something deeply wrong with using advice on the internet of 20 years ago to teach students how they should interact with the internet of today. That demands 21st century skills.

In a report released last month that we co-authored for the Stanford History Education Group, we saw what happens when educators provide students with outdated advice. Most of the 263 college students we tested floundered when trying to discern fact from fiction online.

Students viewed a post of a "news story" from the Seattle Tribune, a satirical site whose masthead proudly proclaimed that "any resemblance to the truth is purely coincidental." Two-thirds failed to identify the story as satirical.

On another task, students examined a site offering "nonpartisan" research that argued against raising the minimum wage. The site is actually run by a PR firm that also represents the restaurant industry. Nine in 10 students never made that connection.

Why are intelligent students falling for misinformation they could easily identify with a quick search? It's not that they lacked strategies. It's that the strategies deployed were forged during the internet's Paleolithic era. To students' detriment, many of these strategies remain prominent on colleges' and universities' guides for web credibility.

Students displayed an almost religious faith in the meaning of domains—particularly dot-orgs. "Reliable sources have .org at the end of the URL," said one sophomore. Numerous college internet guides suggest that dot-orgs are credible because they are restricted to nonprofits. That's just plain wrong. Anyone can purchase or acquire a dot-org, including for-profit companies such as Craigslist and hate groups such as Stormfront.

Students similarly turned to a site's "About" page to determine credibility. One prominent university says an About page can "help determine a mission, point of view, or agenda." A media outlet tells readers to be skeptical if the About page's language is "melodramatic and seems overblown." But dispassionate language is just as dangerous when it confers legitimacy on a shady site. Students should be told that, like Instagram profiles, About pages present curated portraits of how people and organizations want to be perceived.

One of the most common tools for teaching web credibility is

called the CRAAP test (standing for Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy and Purpose), popularized by a librarian at Cal State Chico. Versions of it are used by universities across the United States, including at other schools in the Cal State and University of California systems.

The CRAAP test assumes that websites are like print texts—the best way to evaluate them is to read them carefully. Except skilled web searchers do the opposite. When professional fact-checkers land on an unfamiliar site, their first move is to leave it by opening new tabs and checking other sources.

There's good news too. Our study shows that students who followed the same method as professional fact-checkers upped their chances for success. They learned that the Seattle Tribune was fake news and discovered that the "nonpartisan" Employment Policies Institute was managed by a PR firm that also represents the restaurant industry and opposes raising the minimum wage.

Some institutions, including Rowan University and the University of Louisville, are creating materials based on what fact-checkers do. Their lesson plans equip students with strategies to be intelligent digital consumers. And even modest interventions—in one case just 150 minutes in two college classes—can lead to marked improvements.

A Trump Time Terminal Trilogy

45 OTB to 46 OTB to 47 ODDS

OTB, or Off Track Betting, is a no-no for the presidency.

One Term Bigly 45 to One Term Biden 46 to 47...
my tweets are poor speech in my 4th year I still preach
now my one vermin term rots in hellish heaven
corrupt, untrusted, busted, votes just not in reach

My tweets in CAPS come from twaddling thumbs
any with logic and common sense I lead astray
like my repeated phrases their banality numbs
after touting myself I have nothing to say ...

One of the greatest minds of all times comes to this
my base understands me with red hat certitude
as a top ranked President I give my brain a kiss
resting on inchoate laurels, lazy and rude ...

One term now for me and one term for Joe Biden
dodging lawsuits I'm on some golf course hiding.

Golden Shower Power Gone Sour

Daily bedight the blighted knight in fearful flight
despite money and bling no victory bells ring
a 'sad' old pachyderm becomes a tainted knave
going golfing and speechless in his political night
those he maligned stand behind and write books and sing
of his insults to those in the land of the brave
no Midas touch his tainted touch showed no restraint
lacking insight he viewed the media with fright
about immigrants he would defame, rant and rave
meanwhile children in border cages cry and faint
for him criticism and truth were kryptonite

We're in the midst of an infodemic that imperils our students' ability to make informed decisions. Changing course will require multiple tactics. First and foremost, we need to cut the CRAAP and stop teaching ineffective strategies. We need to create a menu of regularly updated courses that teach students how to recognize misinformation, empowering them to be engaged and thoughtful citizens.

Additionally, we need to work together across departments and specializations rather than mainly putting this challenge on the shoulders of college librarians. Overhauling a 20th century curriculum for a digital 21st century requires a group effort.

Doctors who develop a patient's treatment plan without considering medical advances are negligent. And universities are derelict when they teach or provide source evaluation strategies without considering how today's internet functions.

Because when anti-vaccine content goes mainstream, when Holocaust deniers peddle digital pseudo-histories, and when issues such as gerrymandering and police brutality are litigated online, no one can afford to shelter in place.

Sam Wineburg is a professor of education at Stanford University. His latest book is *Why Learn History (When It's Already on Your Phone)*. Nadav Ziv is a junior majoring in international relations at Stanford.

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

he said, "rounding the curve" on Covid fearing a wave
and finally one last comic tragedy note
he wanted officials to stop counting the vote.

Trump's Latent Loser Lament

Elegy for an egregious example of egotism

Few condolences sent, a list of virtues
hard to find, searching, looking, above, below
behind, consolation, isolation beyond
the voting event on his nearest golf course
over in Scotland or some Ukrainian bourse
maybe a Russian Super Pac source
who will be sending out the notice
losing votes in the electoral college
or tweets in capital letters from POTUS
in the papers, blogs, on the tube
from city slicker, redneck, some rube
from red hat base, blond haired orange face
there will be little sorrow past tomorrow
over loss of the reality show 45 POTUS boss.






SWEDISH

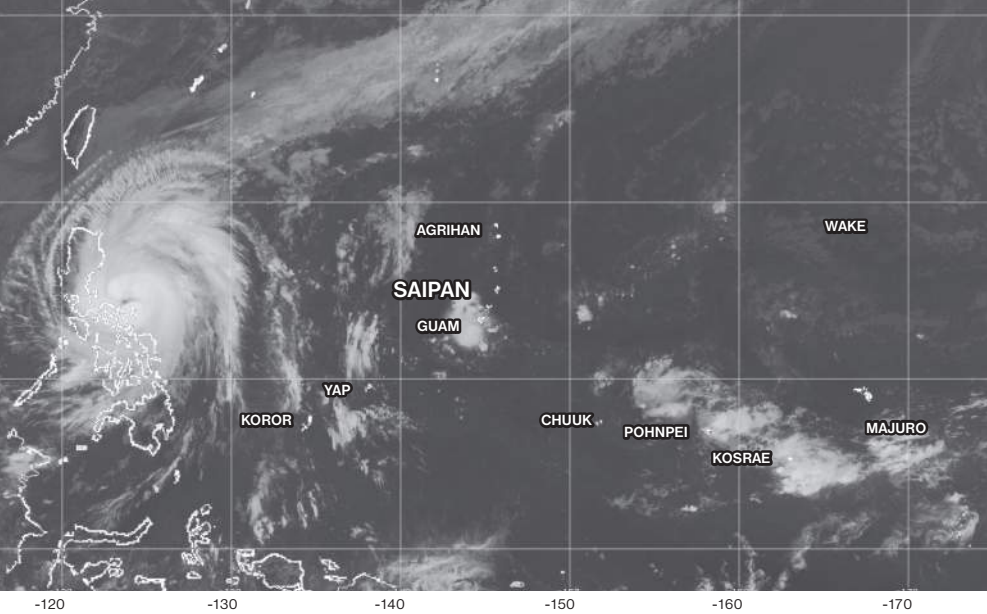
From Page 8

celebrate and share data on the successes.

It's premature to consider Sweden a success, especially given the early fatality rate and current conditions, but it should not yet be discounted as a failure. If anything, the newly rising figures only continue to reveal how little is known about the virus and how careful leaders must be in deducing conclusions.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:50 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show a small trade-wind disturbance approaching the Marianas from the east, with lightning already indicated in Tinian and Saipan waters. Meanwhile, moderate trade winds and combined seas of 5 to 7 feet are present across the region.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:16 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:57 AM	3:28 PM	-
Friday	3:56 AM	4:13 PM	-
Saturday	4:57 AM	5:00 PM	-
Sunday	5:59 AM	5:00 PM	-
Monday	7:04 AM	6:45 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 55°	
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 23°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° / 73°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 73°	
London	Sunny	45° / 36°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	74° / 57°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°	
Melbourne	Rain	79° / 57°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 75°	
New York	Showers	53° / 45°	
Osaka	Showers	63° / 50°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	46° / 34°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	61° / 37°	
Rome	Rain	54° / 41°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	69° / 45°	
San Francisco	Showers	59° / 44°	
Seoul	Sunny	50° / 34°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	66° / 52°	
Washington, DC	Showers	52° / 44°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:40 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.51	
10:52 AM	LOW TIDE	0.25	
5:20 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.94	
11:54 PM	LOW TIDE	0.23	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

Triple J to open businesses on Tinian

By BEA CABRERA

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Triple J Enterprises will be spreading its wings to Tinian aside from planned expansions and developments on existing businesses in the coming months that will bring the company into a new level.

Speaking at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting held last week, Business Development manager Perry Inos Jr. said aside from opening new businesses on Tinian, Triple J Enterprises is also



Inos Jr.

looking at launching a new car dealership store and unveiling a new corporate office on Saipan.

"On Tinian, we have an airport Hertz Rent-A-Car concession there... to build the offices there, everyone worked so hard and we would like to recognize our construction men who worked tirelessly everyday as well as the accounting, human resources, and marketing teams, frontline staff... wherever you go you will see our dedicated staff... they are the face of the company and we can't live

without them," he said.

"Another development on Tinian which is just outside the airport is a hotel and restaurant... we will have a café and right now we have nine rooms, a lovely entry way, and the Hertz main office will be right adjacent to the hotel... Another project is building the Triple J Fivestar Wholesale

where we hope to supply food to hotels, businesses, locals, visitors, and the military and all of these hopefully [will happen] sometime in the near future," he added.

On Saipan, Inos said coming up very soon is a Triple J Motor dealership which will carry their main brands—Mazda, Hyundai, and Mit-

subishi brands and another exciting project next year is the Triple J corporate building.

"Triple J Enterprises has been a longstanding company in the CNMI for over 30 years... and we continue to grow over the years... in November last year, under the leadership of our chairman and CEO Robert H. Jones we opened Surfrider Resort Hotel and Payless Superfresh Truckload Store both in Chalan Kanoa," he said.

"Surf Rider is a four-storey structure with 51 rooms, beautiful lobby... Currently, we are just about 50% complete of our Surfrider Spa that features great amenities where people can get pampered and get a massage... Payless Superfresh Truckload Store opened its doors offering a wide variety of produce, a first-of-its-kind Butcher Shop featuring Certified Angus Beef and a dedicated dairy and deli selection," he added.

'Obamacare' likely to survive, high court arguments indicate

WASHINGTON (AP)—A more conservative Supreme Court appears unwilling to do what Republicans have long desired: kill off the Affordable Care Act, including its key protections for pre-existing health conditions and subsidized insurance premiums that affect tens of millions of Americans.

Meeting remotely a week after the election and in the midst of a pandemic that has closed their majestic courtroom, the justices on Tuesday took on the latest Republican challenge to the Obama-era health care law, with three appointees of President Donald Trump, an avowed foe of the law, among them.

But at least one of those Trump appointees, Justice Brett Kavanaugh, seemed likely to vote to leave the bulk of the law intact, even if he were to find the law's now-toothless mandate that everyone obtain health insurance to be unconstitutional.

"It does seem fairly clear that the proper remedy would be to sever the mandate provision and leave the rest of the act in place," Kavanaugh said.

Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote two earlier opin-

ions preserving the law, stated similar views, and the court's three liberal justices are almost certain to vote to uphold the law in its entirety. That presumably would form a majority by joining a decision to cut away only the mandate, which now has no financial penalty attached to it. Congress zeroed out the penalty in 2017, but left the rest of the law untouched.

"I think it's hard for you to argue that Congress intended the entire act to fall if the mandate were struck down when the same Congress that lowered the penalty to zero did not even try to repeal the rest of the act. I think, frankly, that they wanted the court to do that, but that's not our job," Roberts said.

In the court's third major case over the 10-year-old law, popularly known as "Obamacare," Republican attorneys general in 18 states and the administration want the entire law to be struck down. That would threaten coverage for more than 23 million people, as well as millions of others with preexisting conditions that now would include COVID-19.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

Notice of Public Hearing

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT


DATE: November 12, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the proposed rule for the National Performance Standards for Discharges Incidental to the Normal Operation of a Commercial Vessel. More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/National-Consistency-Determination-Letter_Vessel-Incidental-Discharge-Act-1.pdf.


Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on November 12, 2020 and ending on November 27, 2020. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.



CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB21-OGM-010

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 07, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) BRUSH FIRE TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (ROTA BRANCH). A PROJECT UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB21-DLNR/DFW-007

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 25, 2020 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A 21' TO 22' FEET FIBERGLASS BOAT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES. DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE – FISHERIES SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.


****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.


THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: DPW/SWMD21-RFP-002

SUBMISSION DATE: December 4, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Scope of Services for Removal, Packaging, Containment and Shipping of Hazardous Waste Materials Collected at the Lower Base Transfer Station"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL Conference is scheduled on November 17, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME AT THE Solid Waste Transfer Station Conference Room Lower Base.


QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Blas T. Mafnas, Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS November 24, 2020. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.


THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES



CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: RFP21-DCCA/CCDF-008

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 07, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"TO UPDATE THE CNMI EARLY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS, PRE-SCHOOL, & THROUGH KINDERGARDEN ENTRY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO MS. MARIBEL S.D. LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMIN. VIA E-MAIL AT mloste.cnmicdf@gmail.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, NOVEMBER 25, 2020. ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFICE, BUILDING NO. 1347, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, NOVEMBER 23, 2020. ALL ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & EXERCISE SOCIAL DISTANCING THROUGHOUT THE MEETING.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Nation

Biden vows to 'get right to work' despite Trump resistance

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Vowing “to get right to work,” President-elect Joe Biden shrugged off President Donald Trump’s fierce refusal to accept the election outcome as “inconsequential,” even as Democrats elsewhere warned that the Republican president’s actions were dangerous.

Raising unsupported claims of voter fraud, Trump has blocked the incoming president from receiving intelligence briefings and withheld federal funding intended to help facilitate the transfer of power. Trump’s resistance, backed by senior Republicans in Washington and across the country, could also prevent background investigations and security clearances for prospective staff and access to federal agencies to discuss transition planning.

As some Democrats and former Republican officials warned of serious consequences, Biden sought to lower the national temperature Tuesday as he addressed reporters from a makeshift transition headquarters near his home in downtown Wilmington.

He described Trump’s position as little more than an “embarrassing” mark on the outgoing president’s legacy, while predicting that Republicans on Capitol Hill would eventually accept the reality of Biden’s victory. The Republican resistance, Biden said, “does not change the dynamic at all in what we’re able to do.”

Additional intelligence briefings “would be useful,” Biden added, but “we don’t see anything slowing us down.”



President-elect Joe Biden speaks Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020, at The Queen theater in Wilmington, Del.

AP

The measured comments come as Biden prepares to confront dueling national crises that actively threaten the health, safety and economic security of millions of Americans irrespective of the political debate. Coronavirus infections, hospitalizations and deaths are surging, the economy faces the prospect of long-term damage, and the nation’s political and cultural divides may be worsening.

Biden is betting that his low-key approach and bipartisan outreach—a sharp reversal from the current president’s style—will help him govern effectively on Day One. But just 71 days before he will be

inaugurated, Trump and his allies seemed determined to make Biden’s transition as difficult as possible.

From his Twitter account on Tuesday, Trump again raised unsupported claims of “massive ballot counting abuse” and predicted he would ultimately win the race he has already lost. His allies on Capitol Hill, led by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, have encouraged the president’s baseless accusations. Trump’s tweets were swiftly flagged by the social media network as disputed claims about election fraud.

America’s allies began to acknowledge what Trump

would not.

French President Emmanuel Macron met with Biden via videoconference. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, among six world leaders overall, congratulated Biden on his election.

“I look forward to strengthening the partnership between our countries and to working with him on our shared priorities—from tackling climate change, to promoting democracy and building back better from the pandemic,” Johnson wrote on Twitter. “Build back better” is a slogan that Biden and the British government have in common.

Meanwhile, Biden tried to stay focused on health care in the midst of the worst health crisis in more than a century. One of Biden’s chief coronavirus advisers, former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, briefed Senate Democrats on Tuesday by phone at their weekly virtual lunch.

The closed-door meeting marked the first time a Biden transition official has addressed the Democrats’ Senate caucus since last week’s election.

In an afternoon speech, Biden delivered a forceful defense of the Affordable Care Act, just hours after the Supreme Court heard arguments on its merits. The high

court ruled eight years ago to leave intact the essential components of the law known as “Obamacare,” but Trump and his Republican allies are seeking to have it overturned.

If the 6-3 conservative court ultimately agrees with the GOP, millions of Americans could lose their health care coverage. While Tuesday’s arguments indicate the court is unlikely to strike down the entire law, the prospect added new weight to the already heavy burden Biden inherits from the outgoing administration.

“It’s a law that saved lives and spared countless families from financial ruin,” Biden charged. He vowed to work with Congress to strengthen the health care law “as soon as humanly possible.”

For now, however, Republicans on Capitol Hill, like those in the Trump administration, are showing no desire to cooperate with a Biden administration.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday predicted there would be a smooth transition—to another four years of Trump in power. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell largely endorsed Trump’s approach: “Until the Electoral College votes, anyone who is running for office can exhaust concerns.”

Biden spent much of Tuesday working alongside Vice President-elect Kamala Harris at a theater near his home in downtown Wilmington. He is expected to quickly name a chief of staff and start considering Cabinet appointments, though those likely won’t be finalized for weeks.

Pompeo brushes aside results of presidential election

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is brushing aside results of last week’s presidential election showing that President Donald Trump lost his bid for a second term. Pompeo told reporters with a grin on Tuesday that the “transition” to a second Trump term would be “smooth,” but later said the State Department would be prepared no matter who is president on Inauguration Day.

Tongue-in-cheek or not, Pompeo’s remarks implying that Trump might yet be re-elected were striking, coming at a tense moment for the nation as Trump refuses to concede to President-elect Joe Biden. Pompeo, America’s top diplomat and fourth-in-line for the presidency, spoke even as world leaders have been congratulating the former vice president.

Pompeo, one of Trump’s most loyal Cabinet members, also dismissed as “ridiculous”

the suggestion that Trump’s evidence-free claims of fraud could hurt America’s credibility when weighing in on foreign elections.

Pompeo’s comments about the transition came in response to a question about whether the State Department was prepared to engage with the Biden team.

“There will be a smooth transition to a second Trump administration,” Pompeo said with a chuckle, before shifting to a more serious tone. “We’re ready. The world is watching what’s taking place here. We’re going to count all the votes. When the process is complete, there will be electors selected. There’s a process, the Constitution lays it out pretty clearly.”

“The world should have every confidence that the transition necessary to make sure that the State Department is functional today, successful today, and successful

with the president who’s in office on January 20th a minute after noon will also be successful,” he said.

Later, in an interview with conservative radio host Tony Perkins, Pompeo appeared to seek to clarify his comments.

“Our adversaries should know that we’re ready, we’re continuing to work, we’ll work all the way through January. And then on January 20th, we’ll have a transition, whether it’s to a Trump administration—a second Trump administration as I spoke about today—or to an administration led by former Vice President Biden,” he said.

“The American people understand that our transition will be complete and thorough and that if we spend a few more days validating that we have this process right, ensuring that we’ve protected every American’s lawful right to vote, it’s the right thing to do and we need not worry that

there won’t be an adequate time for transition, which was frankly what the question was suggesting,” he added.

In another interview, this one with Fox News, Pompeo warned President-elect Biden’s team about potentially inappropriate conversations with foreign leaders. He suggested that some discussions could violate the Logan Act, a 1799 law that bars private American citizens from conducting foreign policy on behalf of the U.S., but has never successfully been prosecuted.

Trump’s former national security adviser Michael Flynn had been accused of violating the act for his transition conversations with Russia’s ambassador to the U.S. but was not charged with that offense. Pompeo noted that Biden had spoken with several foreign leaders since Election Day and said those conversations could be looked at even if they were innocuous.

Dems clinch House control, but majority likely to shrink

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats clinched two more years of controlling the House but with a potentially razor-thin majority, a bittersweet finale to last week’s elections that has left them divided and with scant margin for error for advancing their agenda.

The party on Tuesday nailed down at least 218 seats, according to The Associated Press, and could win a few others when more votes are counted. While that assures command of the 435-member chamber, blindsided Democrats were all but certain to see their current 232-seat majority shrink after an unforeseen surge of Republican voters transformed expected gains of perhaps 15 seats into losses potentially approaching that amount.

“We have the gavel, we have the gavel,” said House Speaker

Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who seems all but certain to continue in that role. While she bemoaned Democrats’ losses in districts where GOP votes proved “almost insurmountable,” she told reporters last week, “We’ve lost some battles but we’ve won the war.”

By retaining the House, Democrats will control the chamber for four consecutive years for only the second time since 1995, when Republicans ended 40 years of Democratic dominance.

Yet though Joe Biden won the presidential election, there was a strong chance Republicans would keep Senate control. That would force Democrats to scale back their dreams of sweeping health care, infrastructure and other initiatives, instead needing compromises with the GOP.

World

EU eyes reboot of ties with US, hopes to meet Biden soon

BRUSSELS (AP)—Top European Union officials called Tuesday for a reboot of relations with the United States under President-elect Joe Biden in an attempt to set aside the stark divisions of the last four years over trade, security and the fight against climate change.

European Council President Charles Michel, who chairs summits of the 27-nation bloc's leaders, is expected to invite Biden soon to video-conference talks and then to an in-person meeting in Brussels at an as-yet to be determined date, an EU official said.

"We must revive, and renew, our trans-Atlantic alliance," Michel told EU ambassadors. He said he expects a Biden-led administration to "adopt a calm style. That will be a good thing. But no euphoria. Let us remain lucid. The United States are changing, Europe is changing."

EU-U.S.-relations soured under President Donald Trump. He has variously stunned and disappointed the Europeans - most of them members of the NATO military alliance that America leads—by slapping tariffs on EU exports and by pulling out

of the Paris climate agreement and the Iran nuclear deal.

The EU official said that Michel will hold talks with European prime ministers and presidents on the "re-energizing" of relations with Washington ahead of their next summit on Dec. 10-11, when the issue could be raised again.

The official, who declined to be named because the meetings are still being prepared, said the coronavirus pandemic, trade, security, foreign affairs interests, and "values and multilateralism" would be the focus. Given Biden's past statements, the Europeans are hopeful that the United

States might be more open to working with its international partners.

EU officials have suggested that representatives of the bloc, especially European Commission Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis, who is responsible for trade, were already in contact with Biden

and his team.

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said she thinks the EU should take the initiative in proposing a revamped relationship. "I believe it is time for a new trans-Atlantic agenda fit for today's world," she told the ambassadors.

Shanghai airport worker gets virus; 8,000 tested

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities in China's financial hub of Shanghai have quarantined 186 people and conducted coronavirus tests on more than 8,000 after a freight handler at the city's main international airport tested positive for the virus.

No additional cases have been found, the city government said on its microblog Tuesday. It remains unclear how the 51-year-old man contracted the virus, which has largely spared the sprawling metropolis despite its dense population and strong international links.

In the northern port city of Tianjin, more than 77,000 people have been tested after a locally transmitted case was reported there on Monday. That case was believed to be linked to a cold storage warehouse, reinforcing suspicions that the virus may be spreading to victims from frozen food packaging.

The National Health Administration on Tuesday reported 21 additional cases brought from overseas, while 426 people remain in treatment for COVID-19, which was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year.

China has reported 4,634 deaths among 86,267 cases of the virus, while 788 people are currently being held in isolation for being suspected case or for testing positive without showing symptoms.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

—South Korea's top government think tank is maintaining a grim outlook for the country's economy this year despite an improvement in exports and says the shock unleashed by the pandemic will continue to be felt in 2021.

The Korea Development Institute said Tuesday it projects the country's economy to shrink 1.1% this year after the spread of the virus destroyed service industry jobs and cut down consumer spending. The economy would be even worse if not for robust global shipments of computer memory chips, the country's most important export item. The industry has seen increased demand driven by personal computers and servers as the pandemic forces millions to work at home. While South Korea hasn't seen an explosive second wave of the virus, there's still concern over a steady rise in transmissions that experts say could get worse in the winter.

—About 460 Sri Lankan police have been infected with the coronavirus and 3,000 others have been quarantined amid a surge in cases in the capital and its suburbs. Police spokesman Ajith Rohana announced the figures on Tuesday. Health authorities have linked the police officers' infections to a cluster centered at the country's main fish market near Colombo. Sri Lanka has experienced a surge in cases since last month when two new clusters emerged, one centered at a garment factory and other at the fish market. Confirmed cases from the two clusters have grown into 10,807. Sri Lanka's total number of confirmed cases since March reached 14,285 on Tuesday, including 36 fatalities. Despite the increase, the government on Monday eased a curfew in the Colombo area to reduce economic pain. Schools and key public offices have remained closed and restrictions remain on public gatherings and public transport.

Ethiopia's conflict spills over border as thousands flee

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Ethiopia's deadly conflict with its northern Tigray region spilled over the border Tuesday as several thousand people fled into Sudan, along with soldiers seeking protection, while the Tigray regional leader accused Eritrea of attacking at the request of Ethiopia's federal government.

Ethiopia's Nobel Peace Prize-winning Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed rejected international pleas for dialogue with the Tigray regional leaders, saying there would be no negotiations until the "law enforcement operation" is over. He seeks to arrest the heads of a regional government his administration regards as ille-

gal while destroying its well-stocked arsenal.

Even as Britain and the African Union urged an immediate de-escalation, Abiy vowed the military would bring a speedy end to the fighting. But experts warned the conflict could drag on and destabilize one of Africa's most powerful nations.

The flow of refugees is the first visible sign of a growing humanitarian crisis affecting millions of people at the heart of the Horn of Africa. Tigray remains almost completely cut off from the world nearly a week after communications were severed and Abiy announced a military offensive in response to an alleged attack on a military base.

The United Nations and partners in Sudan are preparing for 20,000 refugees, at least initially.

Hundreds of people have been reported killed on both sides of the conflict so far, one diplomat in the capital, Addis Ababa, said. It remained difficult to confirm either side's claims. Each blames the other for sparking the conflict.

The British foreign secretary, Dominic Raab, joined the pressure on Abiy, saying he spoke with the prime minister and urged a de-escalation of the conflict: "Civilians and humanitarian access must be protected." The AU Commission chair, Moussa Faki Mahamat, called for an immedi-

ate cease-fire and stood ready to support an "inter-Ethiopian effort in the pursuit of peace."

At least 3,500 refugees, including women and children, had arrived in Sudan's Kassala province, the head of the refugee agency there, Al-Sir Khalid, told The Associated Press. Others were on the way, he said.

By late Tuesday, the number of fleeing Ethiopians to Sudan's border province of Kassala and al-Qadarif surged past 6,000, the state-run SUNA news agency reported. The agency, citing unidentified officials, said that over 200,000 Ethiopians were expected to cross into Sudan in the coming days.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†JASON FRANKLIN MARATITA SABLAN

LOVINGLY KNOWN AS "PEPS"

Born on January 01, 1980 and Called to Eternal Life on November 08, 2020

In his New Eternal Rest he now joins:
Grandparents: †Jose Concepcion Sablan & †Maria Rosario Sablan
 †Pedro Songao Maratita & †Maria Ulloa Maratita

His memory will forever live in the hearts of his:
Common-Law Wife: Colleen Salas Deleon Guerrero
Children: Tyanna Elizabeth Deleon Guerrero Sablan / Nathan Camacho
 Lourdes Maria Deleon Guerrero Sablan

Parents: Francisco Rosario Sablan (Ankie Pepero)
 & Beata Ulloa Maratita Sablan (Vicky)

Siblings:
 Peter Anthony & Victoria C. Maratita
 (Des'ree & Zachary Benavente (Liam Jace), Anabeata Maratita / Franko Bondoc, Donnina Maratita / Daniel Calvo II, Peter Franklin Maratita, Victoria Ann Maratita, Gina Josephine Maratita, Hope Hevannah Maratita)
 Madonna Marie M. Sablan & Jonathan D. Hensley (Makenzie Nicole, Makaylie Marie & Jayley Jo).
 Nina Nicole M. Sablan & Lorenzo V. Deleon Guerrero (†Isabelle F. Deleon Guerrero, Zowie Isabelle S. Deleon Guerrero, and Lorenzo Francisco S. Deleon Guerrero)

In-Laws:
 Father/Mother In-Law: Antonio I. & Lourdes S. Deleon Guerrero

Brothers/Sisters In-Law:
 Jacqueline Deleon Guerrero & Estanislao Fujihira Jr. (Naioki Shae)
 Antonette DLG. & Ned Q. Norita (Tonchu, Nadja Rae, Aiken & Avawn)
 Karen DLG. & Glenn C. Sablan (Kaylenn, Gavin, Gio & Griffin)
 AJ S. Deleon Guerrero & Krizia D. Mendoza (Ariah & Kyon)
 Allen S. Deleon Guerrero
 Aaron S. Deleon Guerrero

He will be missed by numerous family members, friends, & colleagues.



Funeral Services will be held on Monday, November 16, 2020. Holy rosary and public viewing will be held at 8:00 a.m. at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. followed immediately by Interment Services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'se and May God Bless us all.

The Family of the late
†Jason Franklin Maratita Sablan.

Environment

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over the past two Saturdays, students and teachers from Saipan Community School, Saipan International School, Mount Carmel School, Hopwood Middle School, and Dandan Middle School hiked a half a mile stretch through the forest to get immersed on environmental conservation efforts in LaoLao's upper badlands, revegetation, fire hazard mitigation, and watershed management.

The out-of-the box activity is part of the Schools for Environmental Conservation program of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, for the youth to actually connect with nature, and gain hands-on experience that will equip them to be effective and strong environmental stewards, especially here in the CNMI.

Schools on island have been running conservation programs in their own campuses, and MINA has been helping them realize environmental plans that they have yet to implement, through guidance, funding assistance, and through on-the-ground experiences that students would be able to learn from.

Dandan Middle School, for one, already grows plants and are doing aquaponics in their school, but still have joined the program to help even more. STEM teacher James Montenegro shares that they are a part of the project to highlight the importance of having every single generation know how to take care of the island.

And so, hiking through the

forest, the young minds were introduced to invasive plant species, as they were treated to a rundown on the role trees and native plants play in keeping the island's ecosystem intact, keeping everyone safe.

"Pay attention to your surroundings," MCS' Mercedes Cruz, one of the students involved in the program, said. "It's really important since we are the new generation that's going to be in this world. We need to pay attention, to care for it, since it's mainly what's keeping us alive."

This year, the program is focused on climate change, marine protected areas, conservation of Saipan's priority watershed, and coral reefs, given that the health of the CNMI's natural resources continue to be threatened. The theme, "Learning about, Interacting with, and Actively Conserving Our Natural Resources."

Revegetation and the future

Revegetating our forests is key to stabilizing CNMI soils, in protecting the watershed, and in securing the future of the islands. Division of Coastal Resources Management watershed coordinator Zachary Williams talked about how deforestation and the influx of invasive species had impacted the island, particularly in not being always as good at holding soil, which leads to erosion and runoff.

"If you don't have plans to stabilize the soils, they will get washed down on the reef, and they'll end up smothering and killing the reef. Reefs are very fragile. The best thing for watershed is to have native species, like a whole native

forest."

"Due to this, as much as we can, we are trying to move towards revegetation of native species, such as what is going on now in LaoLao. There's a big revegetation project on Rota too, as well as some planned projects in Achugao. We are really trying to, as much as we can, re-establish native forests, especially the native, limestone forest here on Saipan."

MINA's Schools for Environmental Conservation program have students planting da'ok trees, provided by CNMI Forestry, in an effort to revegetate the upper badland in LaoLao. MINA has been leading the effort for native revegetation on the island for years.

"One of the best things we can do is to help facilitate native revegetation, which is what we're doing up here... We need to give our native species a helping hand, and one way we can do that is by planting open areas or recently disturbed areas like up here like this grassland spot."

Williams explains that in so doing, the students (and other volunteers) could help facilitate "succession," a process wherein species get planted to form up micro habitats, which would help bring in other species that will develop into a midsize forest, and then finally, the climax forests with larger tree species.

"Through revegetation, we're trying to help facilitate the process of succession, and establishment of a native forests... We've seen some great

survival rate and these plants have grown quite a bit... We're starting to see not just growth of the native species that we planted, but other species come in on their own, which is a great sign that we're doing a good job in creating a healthy native ecosystem."

And playing a big role in these revegetation projects mean a lot for young people here in the CNMI.

"This vegetation project is important for younger generations, because a lot of us don't really know what the importance of the plants are to us... They provide us a lot of oxygen nutrients and it's really important to keep them healthy, in order to have a good environment," MCS' Tyana Tesiro said.

Students protecting the reefs

Revegetation projects, such as what the students did over the last two Saturdays, not only protect the terrestrial ecosystems, but ultimately, the marine environment. Protecting upland habitat and stabilizing soil, in the long run, protects the reef, by keeping dirt from washing down to the ocean.

But, aside from the need for invasive species, there's another element affecting our forests—fire.

"On Saipan, the fuel is often coming from grasses that end up in the dry season getting exceedingly dry, and then it carries a fire throughout the entirety of the grassland until it reaches the edges of the forest," NOAA fellow Ilan Bubb

explains to the students.

"If a fire breaks out, they burn out all this grass and just leave you with this bare soil. And as soon as the rain comes on, that soil is going to slough right off the land and end up in the coral. Fires are just another way that you create bare soil that creates more erosion, which is really problematic for all the ecosystems that we rely on."

Bubb emphasizes that the main thing the students can do to help is to help prevent the fires from actually starting, which includes being safe with fires, asking parents not throwing cigarettes out, or helping revegetate grasslands with trees.

Without vegetated areas trapping sediments, soil gets washed out, down to the reef, where huge sediment plumes could lead to coral lost. Everything is interconnected. Corals get most of their food from photosynthesis, and will starve to death if they can't get sunlight.

Supporting active conservation

What started as an Environmental Teacher Camp in 2007 has expanded into Schools for Environmental Conservation, a full program where both students and teachers together engage in educational and field activities for the environment.

MINA program director Becky Furey shares that the provides opportunities for schools to learn about and work on a project that focuses on a specific environmental issue, and the non-profit

provides the technical and financial assistance to turn the schools' environmental projects into action.

"Through experiential learning from these natural laboratories, SFEC students and teachers will not only realize the critical role that the CNMI's natural resources play in the islands' sustainability but also promote and encourage environmental stewardship throughout the islands."

"If you'd like to support MINA's efforts in empowering communities for conservation, please visit www.minapacific.org to make a voluntary contribution," Furey adds. Funding for this year's program is through the Micronesia Conservation Trust.

Aside from providing experiential learning, MINA also hopes the program will encourage students to pursue careers in environmental science, and to be ambassadors promoting biodiversity, environmental conservation, and sustainable living, that will secure an even better Marianas in the decades to come.

Dandan Middle School's teacher James Montenegro couldn't have said it better, "You really can't plan for the future if you don't prepare for now... So, by preparing for it now, we protect our future. We have to train the children to be able to do that with each generation."

To learn more about the program, contact MINA at 233-7333 (REEF) or visit <https://www.minapacific.org>.

Schools for Environmental Conservation



Mount Carmel School, Hopwood Middle School, and Dandan Middle School students and teachers spent Saturday morning hiking up to help plant native species on LaoLao, as well as to learn about revegetation, fire hazard mitigation, and watershed management, as part of the Schools for Environmental Conservation program of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

Life & Style

Lawyer: Britney Spears fears father, wants him out of career

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears fears her father and will not resume her career so long as he has power over it, her attorney said in court Tuesday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Brenda Penny declined to suspend James Spears from his central role in the court conservatorship that has controlled his daughter's life and career for 12 years as Britney Spears' attorney Samuel D. Ingham III requested at the contentious hearing. But the judge said she would consider future petitions for his suspension or outright removal, which Ingham plans to file.

"My client has informed

me that she is afraid of her father," Ingham told the judge. "She will not perform again if her father is in charge of her career."

The pop star has been on an indefinite work hiatus since early 2019.

James Spears' attorney, Vivian Lee Thoreen, defended what she said was his perfect record in his run as her conservator, which has seen her net worth go from in debt to well over \$60 million.

Thoreen argued that the disruption caused by his removal would do her the very harm the suspension is meant to prevent.

"I don't believe there is a shred of evidence to support my

client's suspension," she said.

Thoreen also objected to Ingham's statements about the father-daughter relationship as inadmissible hearsay.

The judge did approve that a corporate fiduciary, the Bessemer Trust, will now serve as co-conservator over her estate along with her father, which Britney Spears had requested.

Most of the attorneys involved, along with Britney Spears' parents, took part in the hearing via phone and videoconference. The pop star did not attend in any form.

The conservatorship, known in many states as a guardianship, began in 2008 when she was having serious mental struggles and an often public



STEVE MARCUS/LAS VEGAS SUN VIA AP, FILE

In this Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018, file photo, singer Britney Spears makes an appearance in front of the Park MGM hotel-casino in Las Vegas. Spears wants to be freed from her father. In a recent series of court maneuvers, Spears has sought greater say over her life and affairs, which for years have been under the control of a court conservatorship run mostly by her father, James Spears.

meltdown. The arrangements are normally limited to people with severely diminished ability to make decisions for themselves, and are meant to be temporary, but Britney Spears, 38, has remained under court control longer than anyone expected.

Ingham on Tuesday called her a "high-functioning conservatee" who deserves at least notice of the actions her father is taking, which he has declined to provide.

Ingham said Spears has not spoken to her father in a very long time.

Thoreen argued that the reason father and daughter have not communicated is because Ingham has prevented it.

Trump books will continue after Trump leaves office

NEW YORK (AP)—One of publishing's most thriving genres of the past four years, books about President Donald Trump, is not going to end when he leaves office.

In 2021 and beyond, look for waves of releases about the Trump administration and about the president's loss to Democratic candidate Joe Biden. Works already planned include the

anti-Trump "Preventable: The Inside Story of How Leadership Failures, Politics, and Selfishness Doomed the U.S. Coronavirus Response," by former Obamacare head Andy Slavitt. There's a campaign book from New York Times reporters Jonathan Martin and Alex Burns. And former Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale is reportedly working on a memoir.

Expect detailed condemnations of the 45th president's actions and rhetoric, from journalists and former associates, and also flattering accounts from White House allies and pro-Trump pundits. And there might well be a book from Trump himself, who received more than 70 million votes even as he became the first president in nearly 30 years to be defeated after one term.

Star-studded benefit concert to honor nurses on Thanksgiving

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stevie Wonder, Celine Dion, Gloria Estefan will be among the entertainers honoring nurses in a star-studded benefit virtual concert on Thanksgiving.

Nurse Heroes announced Tuesday that the concert called Nurse Heroes Live will stream on the organization's You-

Tube and Facebook along with LiveXLive on Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. EST. The benefit will provide money for a variety of programs including scholarships for nurses and their children.

Whoopi Goldberg will host the concert with special appearances by Oprah Winfrey and Billy Crystal.

Other performers include Josh Groban, Black Eyed Peas, Pitbull, The Wailers, Carole King, Maluma and Andrea Bocelli.

Taylor Swift will donate a signed collectible edition "Folklore" guitar, which will be auctioned for the benefit of the Nurses Heroes Foundation.

Rolling with it, Keith Richards is chilling in the garden

NEW YORK (AP)—Keith Richards is so old-school that when he does his interviews—he'll do so from a landline.

The Rolling Stones icon isn't a fan of technology. Years ago he admitted to not owning an iPod when the device was most popular. He's one of the few people who hasn't downloaded Zoom during the pandemic. And he doesn't even own a cell phone.

"I'm not at all hooked in any high-tech internets," he says. "I don't even have a (cell) phone, man. I'm talking to you from on a landline. Why would I want a (cell) phone? You crazy?"

The unbothered 76-year-old rocker has been home for a full year now—a first for Richards, he reveals. He, Mick Jagger, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts wrapped part of

their No Filter Tour in August 2019, and they had plans to hit the road again in May 2020, but things changed following coronavirus outbreak.

"I saw the garden grow, really quite unbelievable," Richards explains. "Usually



Richards

I come, it's spring and suddenly it's fall when I get back. I spent the whole summer actually admiring the garden and also doing a bit of gardening myself; watering the veggies and the stuff. I got into a more probably normal way of life, which is un-normal."

While some performers in their seventies, including Stevie Nicks and Bruce Springsteen, fear the pandemic is pre-

venting them from hitting the road during their key years, Richards isn't too concerned: "I can't say I feel like a year has been stolen. I'll just make up for it later."

"I'm getting antsy," he admits. "I guess I can take a year off but it's in the bones. I guess after all these years, it's in our calling, the body and everything. It's like, 'Come on, where's our show, brother?' It's kind of a little weird, but at the same time, we've all got greater things to deal with at the moment."

In the meantime, Richards does have something to give his die-hard fans that involves live music: On Friday he's releasing a limited edition box set of his 1988 concert at the Hollywood Palladium recorded during his first solo tour.

Woman discovers truth about boyfriend's dangerous nature

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a wonderful relationship and blissfully happy for two years. We live together. When "Scott" and I first got together, he told me he had a felony conviction and that a woman had falsely accused him of rape. I laughed it off because I didn't want to see the truth, but it ate at me badly. Then I finally looked it up via a background check, and it's really bad.

Two months after his ex-girlfriend broke up with him, Scott broke into her house and raped her while she was passed out on prescription sleeping pills. She called the police the next day, and he got a plea bargain, went to jail for 100 days and paid her \$20,000 in restitution, probation and the whole thing. Scott still insists it was all her fault and that he is the victim. What do you think?

SHATTERED IN THE WEST

DEAR SHATTERED: I am so glad you asked. What I think is that you should extricate yourself from a relationship with this disturbed felon as quickly AND CAREFULLY as you can. That Scott blames his victim for the rape he committed tells me he still has not accepted responsibility for his actions and that he is dangerous. Consider contacting the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (rainn.org; 800-656-4673) for advice on how to safely end it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 55-year-old woman dating a 63-year-old man. Our relationship didn't start out in the best of cir-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



cumstances eight years ago because he was still in his 25-year marriage. His wife had been living out of state. When she eventually learned about our relationship, she asked for a divorce. The divorce has been final for more than a year.

I understand that he is embarrassed to let his friends know he is now divorced, but his closest friends know. I'm still waiting for a time when I can be a part of his life without hiding, but I'm beginning to feel he has no intention of letting this happen.

He gets irritated and upset with me when I ask if this friend or that knows about the divorce yet. He doesn't want me to meet his friends. Must I just accept that I was never meant to really be a part of his life, even though he tells me he loves me?

STILL IN HIDING IN WASHINGTON

DEAR STILL IN HIDING: I'm sorry, but I think you

may be finally reading the handwriting on the wall quite clearly. If he were proud of this relationship and in love with you, he would be showing you off to his friends, not hiding you. Have you actually seen his divorce papers, and are you absolutely sure that this man is divorced?

■ ■ ■ ■

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What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Life & Style

Lawyer: Britney Spears fears father, wants him out of career

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears fears her father and will not resume her career so long as he has power over it, her attorney said in court Tuesday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Brenda Penny declined to suspend James Spears from his central role in the court conservatorship that has controlled his daughter's life and career for 12 years as Britney Spears' attorney Samuel D. Ingham III requested at the contentious hearing. But the judge said she would consider future petitions for his suspension or outright removal, which Ingham plans to file.

"My client has informed

me that she is afraid of her father," Ingham told the judge. "She will not perform again if her father is in charge of her career."

The pop star has been on an indefinite work hiatus since early 2019.

James Spears' attorney, Vivian Lee Thoreen, defended what she said was his perfect record in his run as her conservator, which has seen her net worth go from in debt to well over \$60 million.

Thoreen argued that the disruption caused by his removal would do her the very harm the suspension is meant to prevent.

"I don't believe there is a shred of evidence to support my

client's suspension," she said.

Thoreen also objected to Ingham's statements about the father-daughter relationship as inadmissible hearsay.

The judge did approve that a corporate fiduciary, the Bessemer Trust, will now serve as co-conservator over her estate along with her father, which Britney Spears had requested.

Most of the attorneys involved, along with Britney Spears' parents, took part in the hearing via phone and videoconference. The pop star did not attend in any form.

The conservatorship, known in many states as a guardianship, began in 2008 when she was having serious mental struggles and an often public



STEVE MARCUS/LAS VEGAS SUN VIA AP, FILE

In this Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018, file photo, singer Britney Spears makes an appearance in front of the Park MGM hotel-casino in Las Vegas. Spears wants to be freed from her father. In a recent series of court maneuvers, Spears has sought greater say over her life and affairs, which for years have been under the control of a court conservatorship run mostly by her father, James Spears.

meltdown. The arrangements are normally limited to people with severely diminished ability to make decisions for themselves, and are meant to be temporary, but Britney Spears, 38, has remained under court control longer than anyone expected.

Ingham on Tuesday called her a "high-functioning conservatee" who deserves at least notice of the actions her father is taking, which he has declined to provide.

Ingham said Spears has not spoken to her father in a very long time.

Thoreen argued that the reason father and daughter have not communicated is because Ingham has prevented it.

Trump books will continue after Trump leaves office

NEW YORK (AP)—One of publishing's most thriving genres of the past four years, books about President Donald Trump, is not going to end when he leaves office.

In 2021 and beyond, look for waves of releases about the Trump administration and about the president's loss to Democratic candidate Joe Biden. Works already planned include the

anti-Trump "Preventable: The Inside Story of How Leadership Failures, Politics, and Selfishness Doomed the U.S. Coronavirus Response," by former Obamacare head Andy Slavitt. There's a campaign book from New York Times reporters Jonathan Martin and Alex Burns. And former Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale is reportedly working on a memoir.

Expect detailed condemnations of the 45th president's actions and rhetoric, from journalists and former associates, and also flattering accounts from White House allies and pro-Trump pundits. And there might well be a book from Trump himself, who received more than 70 million votes even as he became the first president in nearly 30 years to be defeated after one term.

Star-studded benefit concert to honor nurses on Thanksgiving

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stevie Wonder, Celine Dion, Gloria Estefan will be among the entertainers honoring nurses in a star-studded benefit virtual concert on Thanksgiving.

Nurse Heroes announced Tuesday that the concert called Nurse Heroes Live will stream on the organization's You-

Tube and Facebook along with LiveXLive on Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. EST. The benefit will provide money for a variety of programs including scholarships for nurses and their children.

Whoopi Goldberg will host the concert with special appearances by Oprah Winfrey and Billy Crystal.

Other performers include Josh Groban, Black Eyed Peas, Pitbull, The Wailers, Carole King, Maluma and Andrea Bocelli.

Taylor Swift will donate a signed collectible edition "Folklore" guitar, which will be auctioned for the benefit of the Nurses Heroes Foundation.

Rolling with it, Keith Richards is chilling in the garden

NEW YORK (AP)—Keith Richards is so old-school that when he does his interviews—he'll do so from a landline.

The Rolling Stones icon isn't a fan of technology. Years ago he admitted to not owning an iPod when the device was most popular. He's one of the few people who hasn't downloaded Zoom during the pandemic. And he doesn't even own a cell phone.

"I'm not at all hooked in any high-tech internets," he says. "I don't even have a (cell) phone, man. I'm talking to you from on a landline. Why would I want a (cell) phone? You crazy?"

The unbothered 76-year-old rocker has been home for a full year now—a first for Richards, he reveals. He, Mick Jagger, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts wrapped part of

their No Filter Tour in August 2019, and they had plans to hit the road again in May 2020, but things changed following coronavirus outbreak.

"I saw the garden grow, really quite unbelievable," Richards explains. "Usually



Richards

I come, it's spring and suddenly it's fall when I get back. I spent the whole summer actually admiring the garden and also doing a bit of gardening myself; watering the veggies and the stuff. I got into a more probably normal way of life, which is un-normal."

While some performers in their seventies, including Stevie Nicks and Bruce Springsteen, fear the pandemic is pre-

venting them from hitting the road during their key years, Richards isn't too concerned: "I can't say I feel like a year has been stolen. I'll just make up for it later."

"I'm getting antsy," he admits. "I guess I can take a year off but it's in the bones. I guess after all these years, it's in our calling, the body and everything. It's like, 'Come on, where's our show, brother?' It's kind of a little weird, but at the same time, we've all got greater things to deal with at the moment."

In the meantime, Richards does have something to give his die-hard fans that involves live music: On Friday he's releasing a limited edition box set of his 1988 concert at the Hollywood Palladium recorded during his first solo tour.

Woman discovers truth about boyfriend's dangerous nature

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a wonderful relationship and blissfully happy for two years. We live together. When "Scott" and I first got together, he told me he had a felony conviction and that a woman had falsely accused him of rape. I laughed it off because I didn't want to see the truth, but it ate at me badly. Then I finally looked it up via a background check, and it's really bad.

Two months after his ex-girlfriend broke up with him, Scott broke into her house and raped her while she was passed out on prescription sleeping pills. She called the police the next day, and he got a plea bargain, went to jail for 100 days and paid her \$20,000 in restitution, probation and the whole thing. Scott still insists it was all her fault and that he is the victim. What do you think?

SHATTERED IN THE WEST

DEAR SHATTERED: I am so glad you asked. What I think is that you should extricate yourself from a relationship with this disturbed felon as quickly AND CAREFULLY as you can. That Scott blames his victim for the rape he committed tells me he still has not accepted responsibility for his actions and that he is dangerous. Consider contacting the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (rainn.org; 800-656-4673) for advice on how to safely end it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 55-year-old woman dating a 63-year-old man. Our relationship didn't start out in the best of cir-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



cumstances eight years ago because he was still in his 25-year marriage. His wife had been living out of state. When she eventually learned about our relationship, she asked for a divorce. The divorce has been final for more than a year.

I understand that he is embarrassed to let his friends know he is now divorced, but his closest friends know. I'm still waiting for a time when I can be a part of his life without hiding, but I'm beginning to feel he has no intention of letting this happen.

He gets irritated and upset with me when I ask if this friend or that knows about the divorce yet. He doesn't want me to meet his friends. Must I just accept that I was never meant to really be a part of his life, even though he tells me he loves me?

STILL IN HIDING IN WASHINGTON

DEAR STILL IN HIDING: I'm sorry, but I think you

may be finally reading the handwriting on the wall quite clearly. If he were proud of this relationship and in love with you, he would be showing you off to his friends, not hiding you. Have you actually seen his divorce papers, and are you absolutely sure that this man is divorced?

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PUT OFF IN FLORIDA

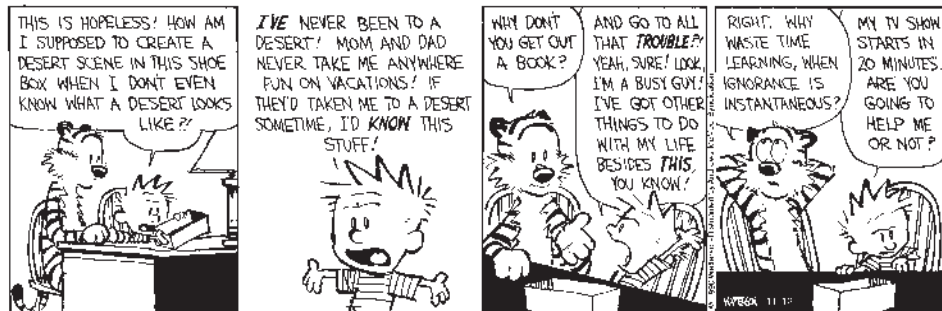
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What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

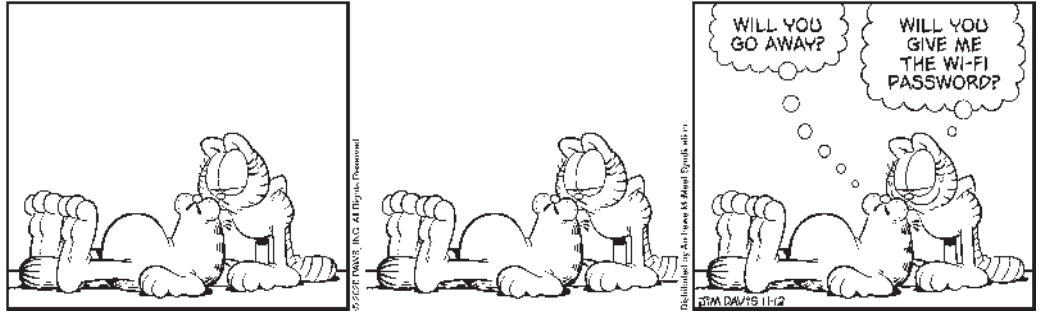
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Caught ya!"

4 Flag feature

8 NBC news anchor Lester

12 Red-carpet type

13 Actress Singer

14 Piece of work

15 Preprandial drink

17 Ship wood

18 "Awe-some!"

19 College reunion invitee

21 Examined thoroughly

24 — out a living

25 College URL ender

26 Go astray

28 CBer's device

32 Green land

34 Group of seals

36 Toy block name

DOWN

37 Shorthand pro

39 Sailor

41 Swab the deck

42 Wee dollop

44 Relishes

46 Land Cruisers, e.g.

50 Wrestling surface

51 Acknowledge

52 Many a Winslow Homer painting

56 Fury

57 "Would — to you?"

58 Boxer

59 Winged

60 Young fellows

61 Rock's Brian

1 Gardner of film

2 Trendy

3 Camera part

4 Trombone parts

5 Pre-schooler

6 La Scala solo

7 Rummage (through)

8 Soup kitchen offering

9 Frank

10 Maui meal

11 Scolding sounds

16 Squealer

20 Kiev's land (Abbr.)

21 Geese formations

22 Tend texts

23 Quick swim

27 Word of denial

29 Rock band's sample

30 Composer Stravinsky

31 "Clumsy me!"

33 Provider of funds

35 German article

38 Granola grain

40 Egyptian pharaoh

43 Pesto herb

45 Rug cleaner, briefly

46 Actress Reid

47 Track shape

48 Meditative practice

49 Ward of "Once and Again"

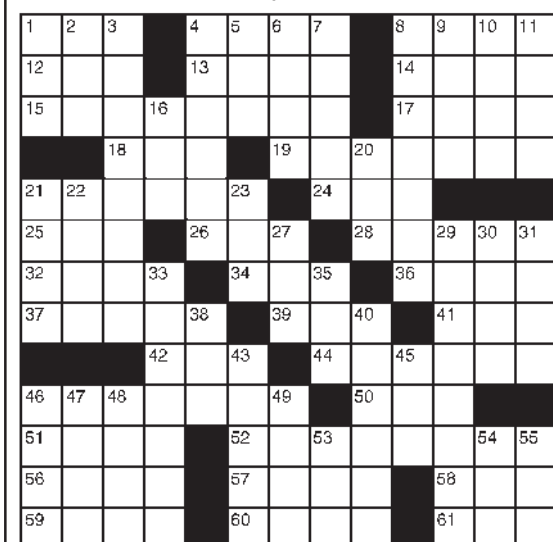
53 Help

54 Bit of wit

55 Swelled head

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-12



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anne Hathaway, 38; Ryan Gosling, 40; Megan Mullally, 62; Neil Young, 75.

Happy Birthday: Relying on others will lead to disappointment. Stand tall, speak your mind and take part in bringing positive change. Look for alternative and find a way to maintain leverage when dealing with professional matters. Stick to the truth and fair play. Learn from your mistakes, and you will overcome any setbacks you encounter along the way. Your numbers are 4, 18, 21, 24, 32, 43, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Work toward a common goal with someone you love. Less bickering and more time spent actively searching for ways to improve your lifestyle will pay off. A romantic gesture will help you put your differences aside, paving the way for healthy solutions. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't take unnecessary health risks. Being well-informed will help you make better decisions. Keep personal information to yourself. Someone you work with will make you look bad if given a chance. Don't mislead someone or make promises you can't keep. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): An opportunity to demonstrate what you have to offer will come. Be precise, and leave nothing to chance. Your reputation will depend on your presentation and ability to convince others to trust and believe in you. Romance is favored. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Say what's on your mind. You are better off discussing matters thoroughly instead of taking phys-

ical action to prove your point. Look for ways to compromise, keep the peace and reach an objective that everyone you are dealing with favors. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): An opportunity will cause friction with someone you love. Think matters through carefully before you make a decision that might jeopardize a meaningful relationship. An issue regarding your safety will arise if you are too lenient regarding health risks. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Monitor what everyone around you is doing, and you'll avoid ending up in a compromising position. Social distancing issues will arise if you make changes to your daily routine. Change your plans if someone near you isn't abiding by the rules. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Observation will help you avoid jumping to conclusions. Spend more time perfecting your skills, improving the way you look and how you conduct your life, and less time butting heads with someone who doesn't share your opinion. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take part in a dialogue concerning where and how you do your job. Look at the pros and cons of a situation that involves the young and the old in your life, and help them make decisions that reflect common sense and safety. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put more effort into your professional goals. Consider trends, and market your skills to fill a niche. Make physical changes at home that will help you improve your health, appearance and lifestyle. Romance is on the rise. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Sit back, settle in and make changes that will help you be more productive. Don't worry about what others do; follow the path that leads to peace of mind and a better quality of life. Refuse to argue. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Go over your finances, investments and personal contracts. Make adjustments that will help you stabilize your position. Don't feel you have to participate in someone's plan. Do what's best for you. A compliment will come with ulterior motives. *****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A deal may look promising, but before you decide to partner with someone, consider how well you get along and if you share the same beliefs and objectives. If tension mounts, consider alternative ways to move forward on your own. ***

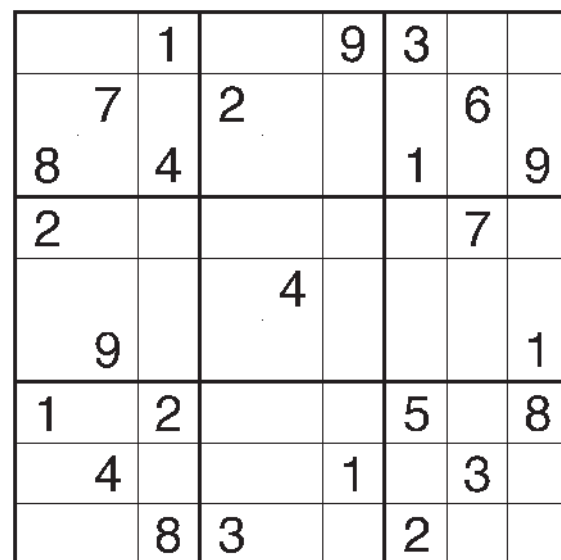
Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, practical and understanding. You are mysterious and energetic.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



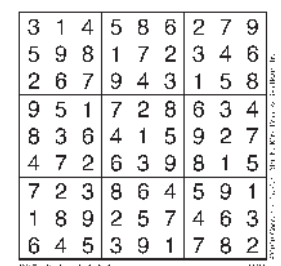
Difficulty Level ★★★

11/12

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HEADHUNTERS

Solution: 10 letters

S T P R O C E S S E M F E E S
N N R C H C T A M E R I H R N
O E O E H S R U D L E V E L O
I M F I F E S I W O R K C A I
T S E E T E C E M A E T I C T
A S S P R A R K N E I P V I A
C E S O L Y C E S I R T R R R
I S I S R S T C I N O S C E E
N S O T E N R T F C A U S L P
U A N L E M A I L I E L B C O
M E A I A L L T D U L S L I T
M S L R E E R E G A N A M I L
O C K N A A M R I F B R U A F
C E T R I Y L R U O H T W Q I
T N N N L E V A R T G S B O J

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Arts, Assessment, Business, Checks, Clerical, Client, Communications, Email, Entry, Fees, Fill, Firm, Hire, Hourly, Jobs, Labor, Laws, Learn, Level, Manager, Market, Match, Media, Medical, Operations, Post, Process, Professional, Profile, Qualifications, References, Resume, Sales, Seekers, Service, Talent, Team, Train, Travel, Wait, Work
Yesterday's Answer: Interior
Treasures 24 through 41 can be purchased online in time for the holidays at: WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Thunder, Suns discussing CP3 trade

ARIZONA—Oklahoma City is ready to move into a rebuilding phase, and that means a Chris Paul trade.

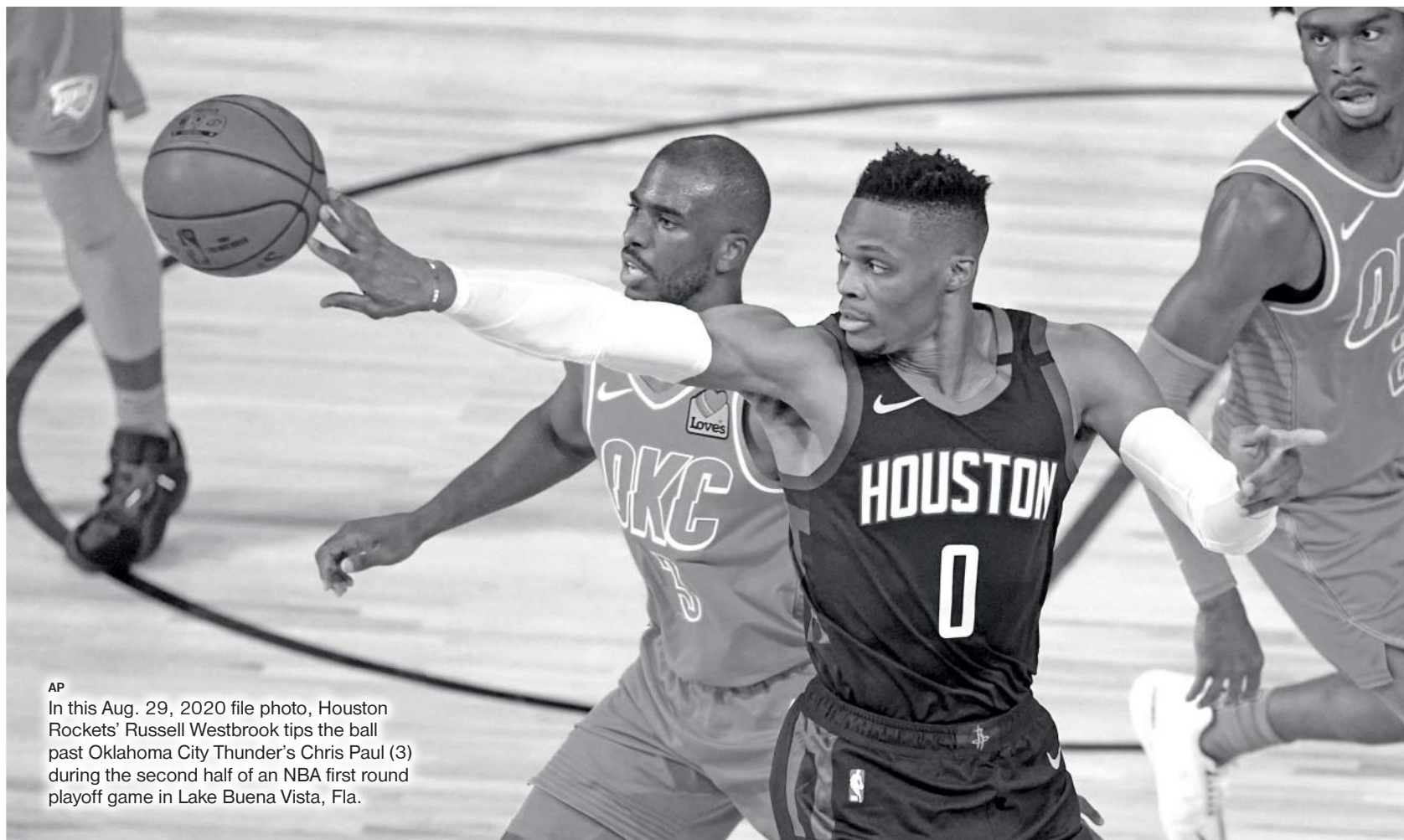
Phoenix wants to make a leap up into playoff contention in a ridiculously deep Western Conference, but to do that they could use more talent and a scoring threat point guard to put next to Devin Booker.

Which has Oklahoma City and Phoenix talking Chris Paul trade, something Brian Windhorst and Tim MacMahon reported at ESPN.

The Phoenix Suns have had discussions about acquiring All-Star point guard Chris Paul from the Oklahoma City Thunder, sources told ESPN. Talks have been ongoing and continued to gather traction but there is no deal imminent, sources said.

The deal could work with something like CP3 to Phoenix for Ricky Rubio, Kelly Oubre Jr., and filler (Frank Kaminsky and a future pick?).

For the Suns, they would have one of the better backcourts in the NBA with Paul and Booker (if CP3 can stay healthy), plus Paul and his lobbs would likely help the offensive game of Deandre Ayton by getting him the rock



AP
In this Aug. 29, 2020 file photo, Houston Rockets' Russell Westbrook tips the ball past Oklahoma City Thunder's Chris Paul (3) during the second half of an NBA first round playoff game in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Neymar, Mbappe PSG contract talks started



FRANCE—Paris Saint-Germain sporting director Leonardo said on Tuesday contract negotiations with Neymar and Kylian Mbappe are underway.

The deals of the attacking pair, who cost the French champions \$474 million in two separate transfers, are up in 2022.

Leonardo also said talks with Angel Di Maria and Juan Bernat are also ongoing.

"All the extensions we're considering, we've started to talk about. I think they'll escalate over the coming weeks," the former Brazil midfielder told the club's video channel.

He said his relationship with coach Thomas Tuchel has improved since they made their differing opinions about the summer transfer market public during media interviews.

The Champions League runners-up have lost two of their opening three group stage matches this term, but Leonardo denied PSG had looked at replacing the German.

"That sort of thing happens, we spoke, the situation is now clear for everyone," he said.

"The truth and the facts are that internally we've never thought about changing Tuchel. We've never called anyone," he added. (NBC)

in good positions to score. What they take on is something owner Robert Sarver has balked at in the past—a big contract that could push them into the tax. Chris Paul has two years, \$85.6 million on his contract (while the second year of that is a player option, if you think he's not picking up the \$44.2 million, then you probably believe Tupac and Elvis are hanging out together on a secret island).

For Oklahoma City, they get off Paul's contract but would have to love Oubre or someone else young on that roster (Mikal Bridges or Cameron Johnson), or the pick would have to be enough of a quality first rounder that OKC wants it.

This leak also could be Sam Presti and Oklahoma City—one of the masters of the smokescreen—looking to put pressure on other reported Paul trade partners such as the Lakers, Clippers, and Knicks.

If Oklahoma City wants to get a deal done they can, the question is just how much can they get back for such a burdensome contract.

Knicks in the mix

Paul and the Knicks have been linked as a possible fit for most of the offseason, but the Suns may have something to say about that.

According to a report from Brian Windhorst and Tim Bontemps of ESPN, talks continued to gather traction, but there is no deal imminent.

There are people within the Knicks organization who continue to see Paul as someone who can help jump-start their

Warriors could play Lakers in Christmas 'centerpiece' game

CALIFORNIA—If all goes according to plan for both teams next season, the Warriors and Los Angeles Lakers could have a real rivalry for the first time since LeBron James took his talents to Southern California in 2018.

Golden State and LA have traded good and bad seasons over the last two years, but the revitalized Warriors seem primed to challenge for the defending champion Lakers' crown. The NBA seems inclined to agree, as ESPN's Brian Windhorst said he expects the Warriors and Lak-

ers to play on Christmas next season.

"I think the game that you will see as the centerpiece game [on Christmas] will be Warriors-Lakers. The reason [for] that is not only do you bring Steph Curry and Klay Thompson back ... but also you're gonna have—unless the Warriors make a big trade—a top-three pick in this draft to be displayed, possibly in his first game. It could be James Wiseman's first game, in addition to the defending champion Lakers. That's a delicious matchup."

space, and there are a number of ways the team could do that, including waiving veteran players on short-term deals such as Taj Gibson, Reggie Bullock, Elfrid Payton, Bobby Portis, and Wayne Ellington.

The 2020-21 season is officially set to begin on Dec. 22, so the Knicks, and all other NBA teams, don't have a ton of time to figure out their off-season plans.

Westbrook trade

NBA teams believe the Rockets could make All-Star guard Russell Westbrook available in trades this offseason, according to Kevin O'Connor of The Ringer. O'Connor went on to identify the Knicks and Clippers as teams who could have interest. Westbrook will make more than \$41 million in salary over the 2020-21 season, so there are numerous possibilities as to potential trade combinations and

The Warriors and Lakers played on Christmas in 2018, but their merry matchup essentially marked the end of LA's title aspirations that season. Although the Lakers won, James injured his groin and he missed all but 21 of LA's 58 remaining games after that point.

With Anthony Davis alongside him, James and the Lakers returned to contention last season, outlasting the Miami Heat in a six-game series to win the franchise's 17th championship. LA did so last month on the ESPN Wide World of

Sports campus just outside of Orlando, Fla., while Golden State's season had been over for about seven months.

Steph Curry missed all but five games with a broken hand and Klay Thompson missed the entirety of the season as he recovered from a torn ACL sustained in Game 6 of the 2019 NBA Finals, and the Warriors limped to a 15-50 record before the season was suspended due to the coronavirus in March. Golden State was not one of 22 teams invited to resume the season in the Orlando bubble.

what could hypothetically be brought to Houston. Westbrook is under contract with the Rockets for at least two additional seasons (he has a player option on the third year).

Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta said, "We're not blowing up anything. We plan on contending." But James Harden—and only James Harden—is Houston's centerpiece. Everyone around him is fungible.

That said, Westbrook leads the supporting cast. The Rockets even turned to micro-ball last season to compensate for Westbrook's inability to spread the floor through outside shooting. But Houston is already talking about adding centers to (at least sometimes) play more traditionally. Maybe Westbrook will no longer fit as well.

The Clippers could use a point guard. But does Westbrook really complement Kawhi Leonard and Paul

George? Though he adjusted to a lower-usage role while playing with Harden, Westbrook is still quite ball-dominant. Westbrook's attacking style could flummox defenses as Leonard and George space from the perimeter. But the balance could (again) be off, as Westbrook can be too aggressive with the ball while playing with a star willing to defer. The Clippers would also be challenged to match Westbrook's high salary without shedding so much depth that a trade is no longer worthwhile. Urgency leads to moves like that, though.

The Knicks have previously been linked to Westbrook. They'll at least have the cap space to more easily acquire him. Still, perhaps New York—not close to contention—acquire a 32-year-old guard with health issues and \$132,932,520 remaining on his contract. (AP/NBC)

Back in Boston, Cora vows to be above reproach



BOSTON

(AP)—Alex Cora wants to make one thing clear—he deserved to have his dream job as manager of the Boston Red Sox taken away earlier this year.

He also is eager to prove he is worthy of his second chance to direct the team he led to a World Series title in 2018.

Cora was introduced as the new Red Sox manager on Tuesday, just 10 days after his one-season suspension for his role in the Astros' sign-stealing scheme during their 2017 championship run came to an end.

Cora was Houston's bench coach prior to being hired by the Red Sox in November 2017, and promptly led Boston to the 2018 championship after a franchise-record 108 regular-season wins. Now he's back armed with the task of rebuilding both his reputation and a team whose roster looks totally different from the one he previously oversaw.

"It's been a tough year," Cora said Tuesday. "I was spending time at home for all the wrong reasons. For that I want to apologize. I deserved what happened this year. It's something that I'm not proud of. We went through the whole process, and at the end I got my penalty and I served it."

"I put this organization in a tough spot. And for that, I'm sorry."

Even at the time of Cora's departure from the club in January, Red Sox owner John Henry and chairman Tom Werner, as well as team president Sam Kennedy, didn't hide their affinity for Cora while acknowledging it was the right decision to part ways with him.

Still, after manager Ron Roenicke was let go following a last-place finish in the AL East this past season, Kennedy said the team made it clear to new baseball operations chief Chaim Bloom that the process and decision for hiring their next skipper was in his hands.

That point was reiterated in a September meeting that included Bloom, general manager Brian O'Halloran, the ownership group and Kennedy.

"Did we let him know how we felt about Alex? Absolutely," Kennedy said. "We were honest and genuine and direct that we would be supportive of the concept of Alex coming back if (Bloom) felt and his teammates felt that was the right thing for the Boston Red Sox. But that it was their decision to make."

Bloom, who was hired in the 2019 offseason, had only worked alongside Cora for a



few months before Cora departed. So, his initial text and calls to Cora a few days after the World Series were more

about getting to know him and his philosophies better.

"Honestly, when the suspension happened, this was

the last thing I was thinking," Cora said of the possibility of returning. "I needed to take care of a lot of things

on a personal level, take care of my family and baseball was the farthest thing from my thoughts.

AP
In this May 25, 2019 file photo, Boston Red Sox manager Alex Cora gestures during their game against the Houston Astros at Minute Maid Park in Texas.

"I never saw that day coming. But little by little the conversations got deeper and deeper."

He said he, Bloom and O'Halloran had several frank and candid conversations about not only what happened in Houston, but Cora's vision for building a consistent product on the field following the trades of former MVP Mookie Betts and David Price as part of the salary cap-reducing moves the team has made since Cora left.

"It was intense. It was genuine and it was tough, you know, because there were some tough questions," Cora said. "And then I kind of like, 'OK, you know, there's a chance.'"

That process eventually grew into a formal interview. Bloom and the team's internal search committee interviewed several other candidates as well, but it became clear to them that Cora deserved a second chance.

Bloom said while he didn't presume to know how every player in the organization viewed the possibility of Cora returning, he said he received several "unsolicited" opinions from them.

"I have a pretty good idea of how they feel about Alex," Bloom said.

While MLB's investigation concluded that the sign-stealing scheme Cora orchestrated in Houston wasn't used during the Red Sox's 2018 World Series season, Kennedy said there have been internal discussions regarding installing safeguards to ensure their baseball operations staff adheres to all league rules going forward.

That's just fine by Cora, who acknowledged he must still find ways to innovate during his second stint in Boston while running an operation that remains above reproach.

"You've still got to find ways to take advantage of the situation," Cora said. "The MLB has done an outstanding job cleaning up a few things that teams did or were doing. And it's a no. It's a no for me to cross the line. If I fail at this then I'm out of the game."

But he's still going to push the envelope, he said.

"As a manager, I still going to push them to do everything possible to read the scoreboard, read the pitchers, read catchers and do all that stuff," Cora said. "I mean, that's part of baseball. And I'm going to keep pushing for that."

Cash, Mattingly win Manager of the Year awards

FLORIDA (AP)—By the time Kevin Cash pulled Tampa Bay ace Blake Snell from the last game of the World Series, he had already been voted Manager of the Year in the American League.

Even if he ended up losing the biggest prize.

It was a Sunshine State sweep for skippers Tuesday night, with Miami's Don Mattingly winning NL Manager of the Year and Cash receiving the AL award.

Long regarded as one of baseball's brightest young minds, Cash guided the thrifty Rays to an AL-best 40-20 record during the pandemic-shortened season. But he was roundly criticized for pulling a dominant Snell in the sixth inning of the decisive Game 6 of the Fall Classic against the champion Los Angeles Dodgers.

"Have I reflected on it? There's not a day that goes by that I don't reflect on it," Cash said. "Being in this position we owe it to ourselves and more importantly our players to continue to reflect on those decisions."

After Snell exited, the Dodgers rallied against Nick

Anderson and went on to a 3-1 victory. Cash said he has had multiple conversations with many people within the game since the loss and has received a lot of positive support.

"Yes, I would do it the same way all over again. I would plead for a different outcome, that's for sure," Cash said with a chuckle.

"That decision was not reflective of my confidence in Blake. It was very reflective of my confidence in Nick, and that's (what) I felt was, at the moment, the best chance for us to win the game."

Voting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America concluded before the beginning of the playoffs. Rick Renteria, let go by the Chicago White Sox after the team made the postseason for the first time since 2008, finished second in the AL, followed by Toronto's Charlie Montoyo.

Mattingly led the Marlins to their first playoff appearance since 2003 despite dealing with a COVID-19 outbreak that paused their season and ravaged the roster.

The Marlins' 31-29 record was Mattingly's first winning season in his fifth year with the

club. The former New York Yankees first baseman and captain had a winning record in each of his five seasons as manager of the Dodgers.

Mattingly, the first Manager of the Year for the Marlins since Joe Girardi in 2006, was the AL MVP in 1985. He became the fifth person to win both MVP and Manager of the Year.

"They're just different. The first one feels personal and this one feels more like a team thing," Mattingly said, "and that's why I'm proud of it because we've struggled for a couple years and for us to move forward is important, and I think this is a sign that we're heading in that direction."

San Diego's Jayce Tingler finished second behind Mattingly in balloting by the BBWAA, followed by David Ross of the Chicago Cubs.

The Cy Young Awards will be announced by the BBWAA on Wednesday night, followed by the MVPs on Thursday.

After losing 105 games a year ago, Miami had its 2020 season nearly derailed by a coronavirus outbreak during the first weekend of play. The team had to make 174 roster

moves but still managed the franchise's first winning record since 2009.

The steady hand of the 59-year-old Mattingly played a big role in the turnaround, which continued in the playoffs. Miami eliminated the NL Central champion Cubs in the first round before getting swept by the Atlanta Braves in the Division Series.

"Over 100 losses, that's the tough part," Mattingly said. "It just feels good that we're moving in the right direction."

Cash, who turns 43 on Dec. 6, hit .183 with 12 homers and 58 RBIs in 246 major league games as a catcher for five teams, including Tampa Bay. After his playing career ended, he worked as an advance scout for Texas and Toronto before joining manager Terry Francona's staff in Cleveland as the bullpen coach.

The Tampa, Florida, native and Florida State alum was hired as Tampa Bay manager the day before his 37th birthday. He finished third in balloting for AL Manager of the Year in each of the past two seasons. He is the franchise's first winner of the award since Joe Maddon in 2011.

Quiet golf course, quiet confidence for McIlroy



AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Phil Mickelson was either speaking from experience or ignoring a big part of his history.

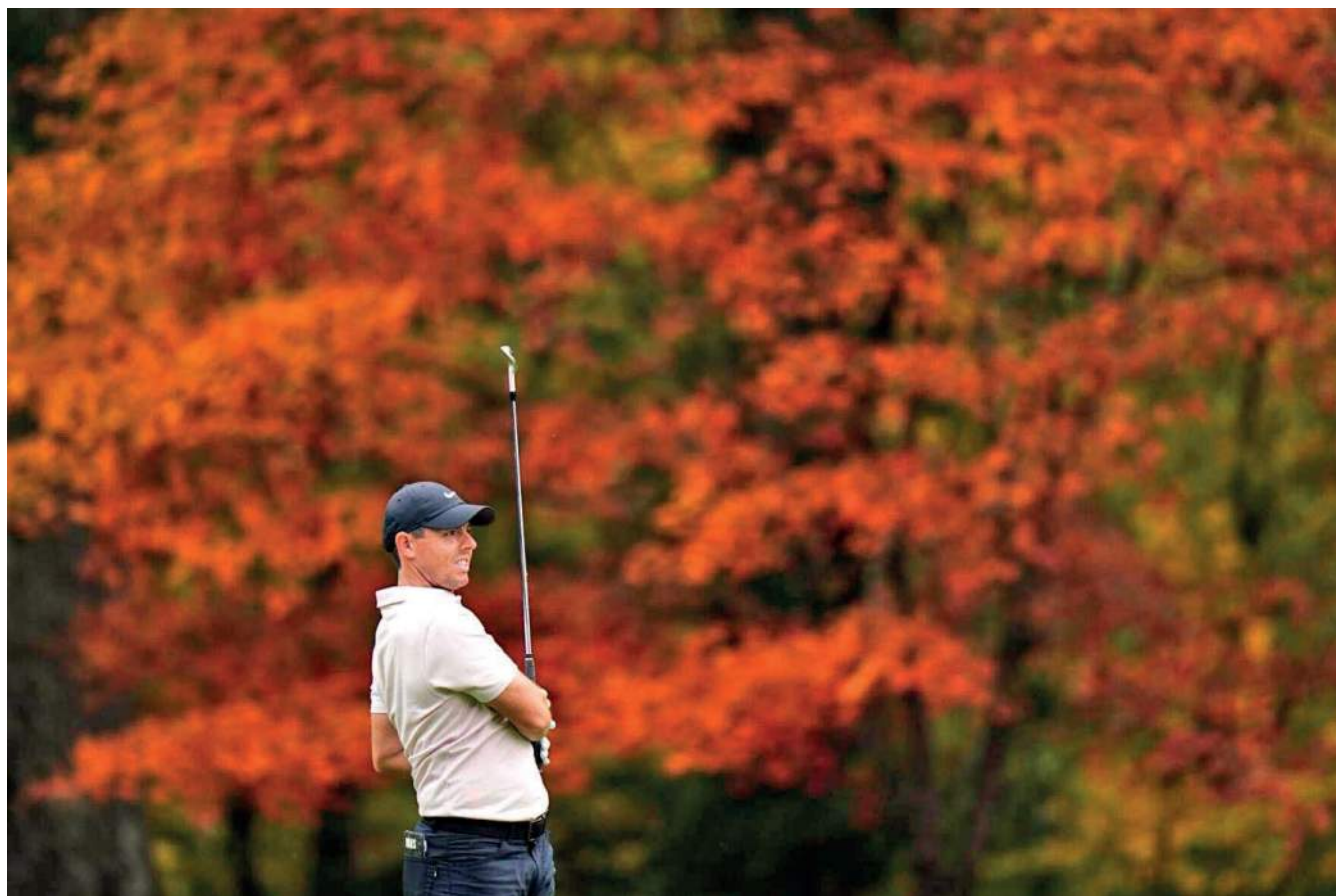
The topic was Rory McIlroy and his quest for the career Grand Slam, the most exclusive club in golf. McIlroy only needs to win the Masters to make it a clean sweep of the majors.

Mickelson is not part of that club, either, lacking only the U.S. Open but not effort. He holds the record with his six runner-up finishes. And so he was asked Tuesday if he had any advice for McIlroy as he embarked on his sixth attempt to complete the Grand Slam at Augusta National.

"First of all, there's not much advice I can give him," Mickelson said. "The guy is as complete a player as there comes."

Lefty liked what he saw Tuesday. They played a nine-hole match Tuesday, the San Diego squad of Mickelson and Xander Schauffele losing to McIlroy and Dustin Johnson.

"He's playing beautifully," Mickelson said. "I would be shocked if he wasn't in contention with a great chance on Sunday, whether it's this year,



whether it's a few months from now, whether it's a few years. I remember when I was trying to win a major — any major — and I struggled for many years. But I always believed it would happen."

It did in 2004 at age 33 at the

Masters. And then Mickelson won a major each of the next two years, followed by another Masters, and then a mild surprise at Muirfield with one of the greatest closing rounds to win the British Open.

But still no U.S. Open.

"He has so many majors already and such a strong game that winning a Masters will happen," Mickelson continued. "And when it does, I think he's going to win a few." If only it were that simple.

Greg Norman surely felt he

would win the Masters and perhaps a few more when he threw away his first good chance in 1986 with a bogey on the final hole. The Shark never won a green jacket. Neither did Ken Venturi, Tom Kite, Johnny Miller, Tom Weiskopf, Ernie Els, David Duval. It's a long list.

McIlroy can appreciate Mickelson's belief as it relates to the Masters. But this is about more than the Masters. It's the final link to the career Grand Slam, achieved only by Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods.

"Nothing is given in this game," McIlroy said.

Mickelson didn't seriously contend on the final day of any major until the 1999 U.S. Open. And those six silver medals came before he got the third leg of the Grand Slam. He won the British Open when he was 43.

McIlroy is 31. He captured

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland watches his shot on the 11th hole during a practice round for the Masters golf tournament Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020, in Augusta, Ga.

the third leg at British Open when he was 25, his entire career ahead of him. And it still is. There is no reason to believe he can't be fitted for a green jacket in November or April, or even a few years down the line.

Sarazen is the only player to complete the Grand Slam at the Masters, in 1935, and that requires an asterisk because the Squire didn't even know what he had achieved. The modern Grand Slam wasn't part of the conversation until Arnold Palmer started it in 1960.

What adds to the burden of completing it at Augusta National are memories—scar tissue, in most cases—from returning to the same course to face the same demons.

McIlroy had a four-shot lead going into the final round in 2011 and coughed it up with an 80. That was before he had won a major. His next real chance was two years ago, when a birdie on the final hole of the third round left him three shots behind but in the final group with Patrick Reed.

All eyes were on McIlroy. All cheers were for McIlroy. He shot 74 and finished six back.

Big hitting DeChambeau

The cart picking up golf balls on the practice range at Augusta National can only go so far. Club members were swapping tales Tuesday about the staff who reached the end of the range and had to sort through azalea bushes more than 350 yards away to pick up a few more balls.

The culprit, of course, was Bryson DeChambeau.

TURKEY

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ple of first place finishes in the NMA event.

Charlie Sendin, another regular at the Turkey Trot and was the overall first finisher in the 2012 race, looks forward to this year's event as he does every year because of the challenging course—up and down and paved and coral road. He is confident that the competition will be back next year and hopes NMA could have another event before the season wraps up.

Under NMA's annual calendar, it's season-ending event is the Christmas Island Relay.



In this 2014 file photo, participants in the Turkey Trot Run leave Lower Base on their way to Mt. Tapochao.

Tebuteb said no decision has been made as far as the re-

lay event is concerned, as the NMA board is still working on

a proposal for the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.

STEELE

From Page 20

tinued his passion and played in club and interscholastic leagues in California. Steele suited up for the junior varsity team of Santa Ynez Valley High School and was named Best Offensive Player of the Pirates.

Though he had a brief stint in various leagues in California, Steele learned a lot from his teams and coaches and the experience and knowledge he gained there are definitely helping him now that he is back on island.

"I wouldn't say that playing in the States made me a 'cocky' player, but I feel that since I was playing against a bunch of bigger and stronger

teams in California, I'm not afraid of playing soccer here and I feel like I'm able to compete in the highest level here on island," said Steele, who also played for the Kickers Soccer Club of Los Olivos and the Santa Ynez's varsity tennis team.

"I learned in California that coaches love players who are dedicated and focused on the game, and I do my best to carry that attitude into my trainings here," he added.

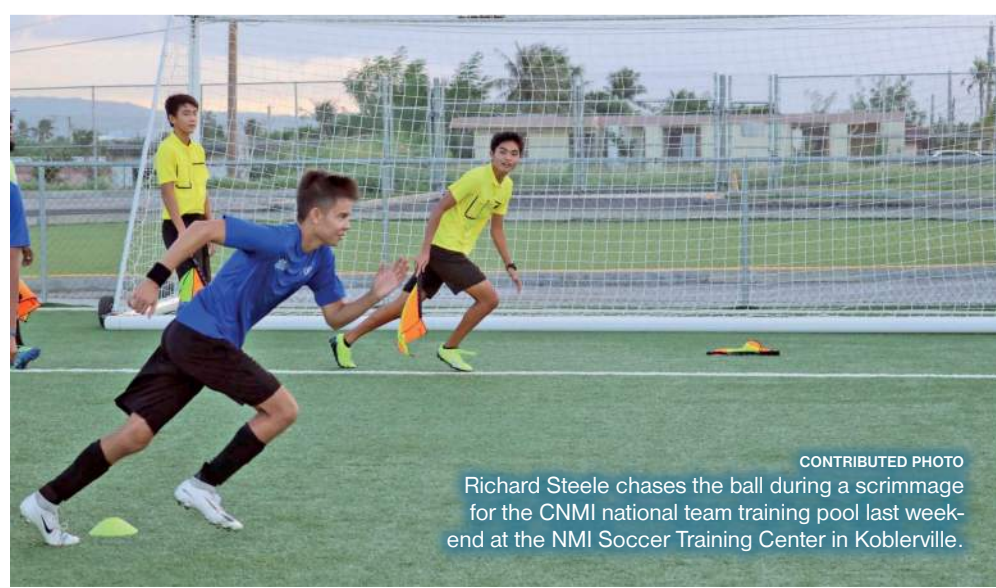
CNMI national team assistant coach Jerish Angeles is pleased to finally see Steele in the program.

"I am really glad Richard and his family are back on the island and that he is now part of the national team train-

ing pool. He's been planning to join the national team years ago but it was that time when he and his family were about to move to the US. Richard is committed to the national team, always attentive to the coaches and always does his best during training. His quickness and aggressiveness are his strong points. I've already seen huge improvement from him since the day he first joined the team," Angeles said.

Steele can't wait to resume playing in regular games at the NMISTC with the national team training pool and MP United and is happy to again enjoy the island life.

"Going to the beach with friends and family has always meant a lot to me, and I try



Richard Steele chases the ball during a scrimmage for the CNMI national team training pool last weekend at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Kobleville.

and treasure every moment that I spent with my friends that I grew up with. What I miss the most about CNMI

soccer is the passion that my team, MPU plays with. I grew up with most of the guys on the team, and I see everyone

on the squad as my brothers. I've always had a ton of fun playing with these guys, win or lose."

Thunder, Suns
discussing
CP3 trade

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Back in Boston,
Cora vows to be
above reproach

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

No Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this 2014 file photo, father and daughter Jeff and Gabi Race negotiate one of the few flat, but rocky roads to Mt. Tapochao during the Turkey Trot Run.



Participants in last year's 35th Turkey Trot Run head out to Capitol Hill.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The event that has become a tradition on Saipan for Thanksgiving Day, unfortunately, will not be held this year, as Northern Marianas Athletics has decided to cancel the 36th Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NMA president Ramon Tebuteb said that since the Turkey Trot usually draws more than 100 participants, having the event on Nov. 26 will go against the CNMI's government's safety rules on large crowd gathering. Last year, 135 joined the 4.2-mile race from Lower Base to the highest peak on Saipan.

"The NMA board has canceled the association's remaining activities due to the pandemic. Until such time that the CNMI has been of-

ficially cleared from restrictions, the NMA board will continue to suspend its activities to take into serious consideration the health and welfare of the community," Tebuteb said.

Jeff Race, who has participated in more than 20 editions of the Turkey Trot, though saddened with the cancellation understood NMA's decision.

"Oh, no! That's unfortunate, but safety is our priority," said Race, whose been on Saipan the last 33 years and remembers missing only

a few Turkey Trot races.

"I won't miss it this year. This event has been part of my Thanksgiving morning tradition. Unofficially, I will run up to Mt. Tapochao on Thanksgiving Day," the CNMI Sports Hall of Famer said.

Race's daughter, Gabi, started doing the Turkey Trot when she was just 11 years old and through she won't be able to join her dad this year, she relishes the moments of her previous treks to Mt. Tapochao with her friends and the cou-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Richard Steele, left, dribbles away from his defender during a scrimmage for the CNMI national team training pool last weekend at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI soccer welcomes back into its fold MP United Football Club's Richard Steele.

After relocating to California a little over a year ago, Steele and his family returned to Saipan last August and the striker has since joined the practice sessions of the Commonwealth's national team training pool

at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

"It's great to be back. I'm having a lot of fun with the national team program. Playing with the island's top players is a cool and competitive experience. The guys on the team, I not only see them as teammates but as good friends as well," the 16-year-old said.

Steele last played in the



2019 Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Spring Youth League and left a mark in the competition by winning the Golden Boot award in the boys U15 division after scoring a season-high 23 goals.

When he and his family left Saipan in the summer of 2019, the youth player con-

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